

NEWS SUMMARY

Alliance renews claim of TV bias

The SDP and Liberal parties yesterday accused the BBC and ITN of biased and unbalanced political news coverage after a report commissioned by the Alliance parties found that they received only 6 per cent of all evening news coverage...

Extradition flight

Scotland Yard may have to use an American commercial flight or the RAF to fly an IRA suspect from the United States after British Airways last week rejected plans to carry him.

Diplomat will sue

A diplomat is suing the Foreign Office for alleged sexual discrimination (Mark Ellis writes). Mrs Susan Rogerson, aged 44, of the Foreign Office's United Nations department, alleges an offer of the post of deputy High Commissioner in Zambia was withdrawn...

Fan stabbed to death

A football supporter was stabbed to death after he and a fellow Birmingham City fan were set upon by 10 Millwall supporters near Charing Cross Station, London. Mr Ken Burns, aged 19, of Maidstone, Kent, was chased to Embankment Underground station where he was killed.

Currie on defensive

Mrs Edwina Currie (right), junior minister at the Department of Health, has renewed her attack on northerners' diet, saying they spend too much on tobacco and alcohol (Jill Sherman writes).

King firm on courts

A proposal to amend Ulster's controversial Flags and Emblems Act, and to permit bilingual street signs in English and Gaelic, is to be put to the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference in Dublin today.

CHRISTIE'S ST. JAMES'S

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NEW YORK

502 Park Avenue, N.Y. 10022 Tel: 212-546 1000. Wednesday 22 October at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. MAGNIFICENT JEWELS. Including a Magnificent Selection of Diamond Jewellery...

Talks on dismissals resume, but both sides are pessimistic

Chaos as strikers halt 14 ferries

By Michael Horsnell. Secret talks about the dismissal of nearly 500 Sealink seamen and on-shore staff resumed in London yesterday amid growing disruption to the company's ferry services.

'School of excellence' head faces inquiry

A committee is investigating the case of a London headmaster who was suspended after being accused of encouraging his pupils to be diligent and to aim for the highest possible standards of excellence.



Mr Brian Dugan outside his school yesterday.

Rail crash inquiries set to open

Big changes at British Rail's vast network of unmanned level crossings are expected after two government-ordered investigations about to be launched into a train crash which killed 10 people.

Schools 'targets for gay lib propaganda'

Education has become a prime target for the propagandists of the gay movement, says a pamphlet published today which examines teaching materials for sex instruction.

Man the loser in new tale of mice and men

By A Staff Reporter. Londoners are outnumbered four to one by mice, according to the author of a new book published today.

Heads seek exam cash

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will be urged today to provide extra funds for the GCSE examination.

Left defies union on Wapping

By Tim Jones. Some members of the print union Sogal '82 have been advised by hard-line London branches to reject News International's 'best and final offer'...

Bae hopes for £500m jet cash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent. Pressure is growing on the Government to provide more than £500 million to British Aerospace for a new generation of wide-bodied jets.

MPs foiled by 'Labour and Cabinet ploy'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter. The Government and Labour party front bench are sharply criticized for colluding to thwart the will of a majority of backbench MPs...

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World Chess

Kasparov takes one move to go ahead

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Leningrad. The champion Garry Kasparov had only one move that he could make to ensure victory when the twenty-second game of the world championship resumed on Saturday afternoon...

Civil defence case 'proved by Chernobyl'

The Government is re-examining its emergency procedures in the light of the Chernobyl disaster (Peter Evans writes). The official verdict is that the effect of the accident at the Russian nuclear power station on Britain was very limited but it could have been much worse.

Police to trace history of gun in IRA cache

Police in several countries are to be asked to help trace the history of the Browning .50-inch belt-fed machine gun seized in a raid on an IRA arms and explosives store in West Belfast last Friday night.

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Advertisement for 'Building something new' and 'one-stop' services, including 'Telephone delays cost \$1 billion' and 'A bumpy ride'.

Building societies get warning over hard sell in 'one-stop shopping'

By Staff Reporters

The Department of the Environment has given a warning to building societies not to jeopardize their high public standing by aggressive competition in the market for professional services to home buyers and owners, when they take up the powers under the Building Societies Act, 1986.

Speaking at a weekend conference in York on the future role of the societies, Mr Richard Gibson, head of the department's policy division, said: "It would be a tragedy if the building societies came to be seen in the same light as other businesses because of pressure to make profits."

The Times inquiry into soaring house prices, the societies are under pressure to stop granting too many high-risk mortgages, which are blamed for the disturbing rise in arrears and repossessions.

The mortgages issue was brought into the political arena with a warning by Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, that building societies should be wary of increasing competition in mortgage markets.

Although there is no intention that the Government will intervene, Mr Stewart's remarks to a meeting of building society officials at Eastbourne on Friday amount to a warning shot.

Treasury officials point out that they were not intended to signify any change. Rather, ministers can expect, and that is what Mr Stewart was doing.

Mr Stewart's public remarks came in the wake of those of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, who recently called on institutions to exercise self-restraint and to resist the pressure to allow leading cri-



New 'threat' to tenants

Council tenants will have little chance of challenging the private takeovers of their homes if the new Housing and Planning Bill becomes law, Shelter, the housing charity, says today.

It labels as "inadequate and unworkable" proposals to give tenants a say in whether their homes should be handed over to a private landlord or manager.

The Government's plans are due to be discussed in the Lords this week. Shelter made the comments in its briefing for peers.

Mrs Sheila McKechnie, Shelter's director, said: "Far from giving tenants a say in the future of their homes, the Government is effectively denying them that right."

Under the Building Societies Act, the societies will be permitted to provide the full range of homeowner professional services, such as estate agency, conveyancing and insurance policies.

From January 1, prospective homeowners will be able to buy these services in what is being called "one-stop shopping".

But Mr Gibson said at the York conference that there was a danger that building societies could become vic-

tims of the same criticisms, no matter how unjustified, that have been made against estate agents and solicitors, such as making a lot of profit for little work.

In an attempt to minimize that danger, Mr Gibson urged the societies to take the initiative in tackling some of the difficulties that face the industry, particularly the amount of time it takes to buy and sell, and the frustration of being caught in a chain.

He indicated that the Government expected the one-stop shopping facility to speed property transactions.

He also hinted that there would be few objections if the societies provided the missing link needed to accelerate stalled chains.

In anticipation of the announcement of Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, of the right-to-rent legislation at the Conservative Party conference this week, Mr Gibson said: "The department is looking for the building societies to expand and improve the poor image of private letting, and widen the housing choices of those not wishing to buy."

Building society representatives were, however, sceptical of the role they were being asked to play, especially as the fair rent legislation prohibits them from securing an adequate return on investment.

The societies also expressed reservations about the proposed new capital adequacy requirement which will require them to maintain a higher percentage of capital in reserve.

Many societies believe that requirement will effectively prevent them from providing the full range of professional services because they will not be able to afford it.



Sixth formers from Shelley High School, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, with the all-aluminium vehicle that yesterday won them the £1,000 top prize in a competition to build a car for the year 2000. The team won the BP Bulldozer contest, held at Bordon, Hampshire. (Photograph: Peter Trivner)

'Elite' orchestra proposed

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Advisers to the Arts Council have proposed creating an elite orchestra, to rival the best in the world, in an apparent attempt to dissuade Mr Simon Rattle, the conductor, from leaving Britain.

The music advisory panel, under Sir Brian Young, have suggested that additional funds of at least £500,000 be made available next year to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The funds would contribute towards a new concert hall, recruiting top class musicians, and staging more ambitious programmes. A prime motive is to persuade Mr Rattle, widely regarded as currently the finest conductor in Brit-

ain, to remain with the orchestra when his contract expires in 1988.

He has received several offers from leading orchestras in the United States, and is thought likely to accept one of them unless the Birmingham Symphony is given extra financial support to enable it to perform at the highest artistic level.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, favours the project which is in line with its policy of developing the regional arts.

The council would be unable to provide all the funds and support would be required from the Government,

Birmingham City Council and private sponsors.

In the interim, Mr Rattle may be working more with Mr Trevor Nunn, the theatre director, who reduced his commitment to the Royal Shakespeare Company at the weekend.

Mr Nunn handed over his role as chief executive, which he has held since 1968, to Mr Terry Hands, his former deputy. Under the change, which has been planned for some time, Mr Nunn will remain joint artistic director and will continue to be consulted on planning decisions.

His contract will give him greater freedom to work outside the RSC.

Solicitors set up own cover for negligence

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors have decided to bear their own insurance risks against negligence claims because of the growing difficulty of finding cover on the open insurance market.

The Law Society is to set up from next September a mutual insurance scheme for the profession which will carry the risks of insuring the 35,000 solicitors in England and Wales and will pay all claims.

For the past few years the society has run a compulsory master policy scheme, which provides all solicitors with cover worth £500,000 although the larger firms seek top-up cover above that sum.

The underwriters of the scheme are Guardian Royal Exchange, which provides 50 per cent of the cover.

A Law Society spokesman said: "This year for the first time the Guardian Royal Exchange said it was not prepared to take more than 50 per cent of the cover should we have difficulty finding the remaining 50 per cent."

With the all-round contraction in the insurance market because of the large professional claims, the society only managed "by the skin of its teeth" to make up the rest of the cover for the profession.

The new scheme will be run on a commercial basis. It will still be compulsory for solicitors and the society cannot say whether the premiums will be more or less than they are.

"But the difference will be that the premiums will more accurately reflect the claims made," the spokesman said.

Another factor in the society's decision was the rising cost of the master policy scheme. The global sum of premiums this year for the profession is £52 million, which is up by 30 per cent on the year before.

Portfolio Gold - Regular playing pays off

Two readers share the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £24,000.

Mr Ray Hughes, aged 40, from Wimbourne in Dorset, has played the Portfolio Gold game regularly since it started in *The Times* six months ago.

Mr Hughes, who is a retailer, said that he could not believe his luck. "It still hasn't sunk in yet. I suppose I should be doing hand-stands, but I am suffering from a lack of reaction."

Mr Hughes said that he intended investing his winnings while debating how to spend it. "I'll have to think about it for a while, but I'll probably spend some of the money on a good holiday," he said.

The other winner is Miss M Potts, from Macclesfield in Cheshire.

There were no daily winners on Saturday.

Readers who would like to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

M25 gains five miles

A further five miles of the M25, linking existing sections from the west to the M1, will be opened tomorrow simply by the removal of cones.

The new section, north of Watford, will leave only one to complete the orbital route round London. Those final eight miles will be opened formally with an official ceremony and the cutting of a tape on October 29.

Telephone delays cost '£1 billion'

Incompetent switchboard operators could be costing Britain more than £1 billion a year in wasted staff time, and higher telephone bills.

The Telecom Users' Association has calculated that 15 to 20 per cent of telephone bills are accounted for by holding time, when a switchboard operator claims to be "just putting you through".

Expressed as a percentage of British Telecom's annual £4,537 million turnover on calls, that would account for more than £800 million of the national telephone bill.

BT's Voicebank message service has calculated that Britain's 10 million office workers spend up to a week each year waiting for calls to be connected.

Taking an office worker's average salary to be £10,000, that represents £200 million of wasted time.

A spokesman for the association said: "Research has shown that it is usually cheaper never to hold, and simply to ring back later."

Catholics may use Pill after rape

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Roman Catholic women who have been raped may take a large dose of the "morning after" birth control pill to protect themselves from becoming pregnant, and Roman Catholic doctors may prescribe it for them, according to the latest guidance from an official church committee on medical ethics.

The treatment, using the hormone oestrogen, is allowed by the Roman Catholic Church provided it is used as a contraceptive and not to cause an abortion, the committee states.

It has reiterated and expanded some advice it gave earlier this year, and defended itself from the criticism that it was countenancing abortion.

Although the treatment can involve a risk of abortion, it says, the risk is permissible.

The Joint Committee on Bio-ethical Issues, which has given these rulings, is an official agency of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain and Ireland, and it is noted for its conservative approach to ethical and sexual matters.

The Catholic Church's traditional teaching is that contraception is sinful. The committee explains, however, that that ban is concerned with voluntary sexual intercourse within marriage.

A woman who has been sexually assaulted can take steps to protect herself from the consequences.

The "morning after pill" prevents ovulation and therefore prevents conception.

In its latest statement, the committee denies that it is "commending" the use of the pill after rape, or saying that contraception is allowable in emergencies.

But it adds: "Concern for the unborn, and loyalty to Catholic teaching, should not lead anyone to conceal the truth that for women in the predicament of rape there are possibly some effective self-defence choices which in some circumstances, they and/or their medical advisers might take."

A bumpy ride for ministers

The holes in Britain's roads, or rather the bumps left after repair, are to be studied by a new committee.

The Joint Committee for the National Reinstatement Specification, JCNRS, for short, will meet in the next four or five weeks to work out an officially approved filling.

It is not the first committee on the topic. The campaign against holes stretches back to 1817, with an "Act for better paving, improving and regulating the Streets of the Metropolis, and removing and preventing Nuisances and Obstructions".

Alas, they continued to flourish, made worse by a series of Victorian acts which gave gas, electricity and water authorities wide rights to dig.

Last week, when the Roads and Traffic Minister, Mr Peter Bottomley, inspected a pioneering computerized hole in the City of London, he probably did not know that he was peering down at an historic problem.

Acts of Parliament, committees, working parties, and reports have come and gone, but holes in the road have remained, first obstructing wagons and horses and now lorries and cars.

The first committee on holes in the road was set up in 1938 and reported a year later. Its report, however, was pigeon-holed when Hitler's bombers started making even larger holes in roads.

When in 1950 its recommendations were enshrined in the Public Utilities Street Works Act, they were already out of date.

The next effort to rid the road of holes came in the optimistic years of the 1960s, the decade of Mr Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology", with the forma-



An official briefing for Mr Peter Bottomley, minister for holes in the road. His encounter with a "computerized hole" in the City of London gave him a common bond with governmental forbears dating back to 1817.

tion of a second committee, the Committee of the Coordination of Underground Services on Building Sites, CCUSBS. Alas, this first officially approved hole system was suitable only for virgin sites.

In the 1970s, committees and reports followed thick and fast and the National Joint Utilities Group, was set up to be the king of all committees on holes. Since 1977 it has worked tirelessly on holes,

finally begetting the present committee, JCNRS.

This committee has set up a working party on computerized holes and a system of phoning in news of holes.

And the holes in the road are still there. Surveying the years since 1817, a philosopher might conclude that man is helpless in the face of inanimate matter. On the whole, that is.

Where do the major retailers go shopping for complete retail systems?



NCR of course! Not only have we installed the largest number of in-store computers in the UK to date, but more significantly we've just installed Europe's largest retail system for Britain's biggest department store group. But what makes NCR so successful? It could be our ability to provide the widest product range in the business. Or it could be our commitment to industry standards, fourth generation development tools and systems integration. Or perhaps it's our

unrivalled experience and understanding of the retail industry. But one thing's for certain. Whatever your retail problems, NCR can supply the solution. From Head Office through warehouse to the store, NCR gives you control and information for better decisions. So put NCR on your retail systems shopping list now and find out more today by calling the Information Centre on 01-724-4050. Or write to, NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6LY.



Leading with technology without leaving you behind.

Police statistics 'fail to show true level' of violent crime in homes

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The amount of domestic violence is being hidden because the police are not recording the extent of it, according to a report now being studied by the Metropolitan Police.

The findings, by Miss Susan Edwards, a research fellow at the Polytechnic of Central London, add to the controversy over the validity of police statistics. They are based on an examination of all police records, including crime books, for a six-month period in two divisional stations, Holloway, north London, and Hounslow, west London, in 1985.

Police Response to Domestic Violence, which was carried out with colleagues from the polytechnic, is to find ways of improving the police response to domestic violence and providing a better service for victims of crime.

Woman in rape death is charged

By Michael Horswell

A woman who allegedly stabbed to death the man who raped her will appear in court today on a charge of murder. Scotland Yard said that the hearing will be at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, central London.

Clash on vetting for sex offenders

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A dispute over the confidentiality of criminal records which are made available to local authorities surrounds new safeguards against sex offenders obtaining jobs involving children.

These arrangements extended to persons in the social services, probation service and local authority health and education departments, provided that they had "substantial access" to children.



Kevin Lawrence, aged eight, and his sister Betty, now almost two, who are in hospital for an operation that could enable Betty to save her brother's life.

Kevin was born with an extremely rare form of anaemia, which means that the slightest knock or bump bruises him very badly. Bad falls can cause him to haemorrhage. A search for a suitable donor for a bone marrow transplant to cure Kevin's illness proved unsuccessful until Betty was born.

Doctors had given him just four years to live. Until now he has had to go to hospital every day for a check on a special tube inserted into a main artery which allows drugs to be given and blood samples taken without pricking his skin every time.

In hospital yesterday Kevin said he hoped that after the operation he would be able to play soccer for the first time with his friends.

Car trade protection 'illegal'

By David Cross and Richard Owen

The right of British motorists to buy right-hand drive vehicles on the Continent at prices lower than those in Britain has been reinforced by a new ruling from the EEC, according to motor industry sources in London and Paris.

Third inquiry into newsboy's killing

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has ordered a third police inquiry into the murder in 1978 of Carl Bridgewater, the boy who was killed with a shotgun as he delivered newspapers to an isolated farm near Stourbridge, in Staffordshire.

Extensive damage in prison riot

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

An inquiry was launched yesterday into why 200 prisoners went on the rampage at Wymott Prison, Lancashire, during Saturday night, causing extensive damage.

Sikhs go on trial over Gandhi plot

By Craig Seton

Three Sikhs go on trial at Birmingham Crown Court today accused of plotting to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, during his state visit to Britain last year.

Clinical trials: 1

Volunteers lack safeguards

Most research involves testing new drugs on patients who stand to benefit, but an increasing number of drug trials using healthy volunteers are being set up.

Research units are springing up in private institutions, university departments and National Health Service premises, and there is concern that there are inadequate safeguards to protect the volunteers' health, safety and rights.

Early Scottish town found

Archaeologists believe they have uncovered Scotland's earliest town near the site of a ruined early Christian priory at Whithorn, Wigtownshire.

Candidate's smear claim

Detectives are investigating yesterday why divorce documents of Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, former Conservative MP, were delivered to houses in King's Lynn, Norfolk during a local by-election campaign.

TV advice on conservation

Conservation advice for farmers will feature for the first time in a television series, Farm Focus, this autumn.

£5 to bring back Worzels

Farmers at Ryedale, North Yorkshire, are being offered £5 from the rates to replace their hi-tech bird-scars with traditional Worzel Gummidge.

Law may act over damage in pregnancy

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Women who harm their unborn babies in the womb through smoking, drinking or taking drugs in pregnancy could face prosecution for child abuse, if an appeal is lost in the House of Lords this week.

A mother, aged 30, from Reading, who took drugs in pregnancy, is appealing against a decision of Berkshire County Council to remove her baby at birth because it had become addicted to methadone, a heroin substitute.

The baby, born at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in March last year, was put into intensive care after showing drug-withdrawal symptoms. Two months later she was released into the care of foster parents who still look after her.

In the United States a criminal prosecution is being brought against a Californian mother, Mrs Rae Stewart, for allegedly contributing to her son's death by taking amphetamines in pregnancy.

Mechanized potato picker

An £89,000 mechanical harvester, which could put an end to the backbreaking labour of picking potatoes by hand, has been developed by Mr Robin Upton, a Suffolk farmer, with an engineering colleague.

Quick admission will help success

The men, all from Leicester, were sent for trial last May when Mr Justice Leggatt, sitting in the High Court, granted a rarely-used legal order to move a case for trial to a crown court.

She was filthy. She was smelly. She was cold. And she'd never even been cuddled.

A fifteen month old girl was recently brought to the attention of the NSPCC. She didn't have a mark on her but she was nevertheless an extremely harrowing case.

When she was born, her mother hadn't even bothered to provide any clothes for her. The parents fought constantly and there was no parental care.

When the NSPCC Inspector visited he found the child without clean clothes, clean bedding or any food in the house.

A "place of safety" order was obtained by the NSPCC and the child was successfully placed with foster parents.

But there are many more children like this. Helping them takes time and money.

And the NSPCC's principal source of money is people like you. Send whatever you can afford (£15.48 can protect a child for two weeks), using the coupon below.

You'll be helping to heal the unseen scars inflicted on hundreds of loved children.

NSPCC donation form with fields for name, address, and amount.

Action to sue Christie's in New York delayed

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The hearing in New York of the case brought against Christie's by Christallina, a Swiss-based art investment trust, due to open today, has been held over.

Car trade protection 'illegal'

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Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Beneficial flies', 'Freedom', 'Solved', 'denies', 'Quick admission will help success', and 'Nucleon Pac'.

Reluctant beneficiary of Daniloff affair

Orlov flies from Siberia to freedom after being stripped of citizenship

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The final act in the Daniloff affair was played out yesterday morning at Moscow's international airport, when activist, Dr Yuri Orlov, flew unaided on board a New York-bound Aeroflot plane with his wife, Irina.

Orlov's release from exile in Siberia, where he was serving a five-year term of internal banishment, was part of the price demanded by the US in the controversial deal which, as well as including Mr Nicholas Daniloff, also involved the return here from New York of Dr Gennady Zakharov, the Soviet physicist charged with espionage.

Western reporters were denied any sight of Dr Orlov, who spent the past few days in Moscow's grim Lefortovo prison, but his relatives told of the physical toll which years in a labour camp and then exile had taken.

Dr Orlov's departure has left the spotlight of Western pressure groups directed on Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel peace prize winner, who is exiled in the closed city of Gorky.

Soviet pledge on Nicaragua

From A Correspondent Mexico City

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, wound up his two-day visit to Mexico saying that the Soviet Union did not intend to improve relations with Mexico at the cost of other nations' interests and against the prevailing realities.

Mr Shevardnadze denied that the Soviet Union had any military presence in Nicaragua. "We never had one, not even military advisers. We have given material help within our limits," he said.

However, the indirect reassurance to the US was accompanied by criticism of its role in Central America.

Mr Shevardnadze claimed that Soviet forces had begun to withdraw from Afghanistan. "But our prime condition is that no one else intervenes there," he said.

Reporter denies bond with captors

Washington (Reuters) - The US journalist, Mr Nicholas Daniloff, said yesterday that he did not develop any bond with his Soviet captors and did not weaken during his 13 days in prison.

"I never signed any document that said I agreed with the charges. I never had any illusions about the KGB or the Soviet system of government. The state's power is limitless and abusive. And yet, what happened to me doesn't change my view that the Russian people and the American people must put their relations on a stable basis. We've got to get to know each other."

If his case had come to trial, he would not have spoken in his defence and would not have answered questions. "But at the end I would get my last word, a statement attacking the entire thing as a farce."



The official limousine of Mr Gorbachov forming part of the Soviet advance party for the summit at Reykjavik airport.

Summitry spells opportunity for the enterprising residents of Reykjavik

From Brian James Reykjavik

During these bleakly embarrassing days of the fisheries war the Icelanders were apt to tell us that all that stood between them and starvation was the cod. That was, of course, before they discovered conferences.

Mr Orlov, aged 62, was kept apart from the other passengers and boarded the plane alone. He has been stripped of his Soviet citizenship, but his wife has been given a passport which she can use to visit the Soviet Union provided she does not make statements which the Kremlin deems anti-Soviet.

Iceland's population is 250,000, who have seized the task allotted them by the superpowers with an élan not far short of heroic.

Some suffering will be stochastically borne by Iceland's invaded population. At, for example, the schools closing down for the duration to provide press centres.

The selection of Reykjavik as the improbable venue for the meeting next weekend between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov was made precisely because of its remoteness.

The last time Reykjavik was in the international spotlight was when Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer met there for the world chess championship in 1972.

My own nastiest moment thus far was to inquire after the use of an office with a telex machine. No problem, came the answer. That will be \$500 (£344) a day. This dispatch, therefore reaches you via telex.

They also have an anti-terrorist squad of a dozen men and officers, which has not, it was admitted, had much practice.



The waterfront Hotel House, where the talks will take place.

Kremlin Asian expert retires

Moscow (AP) - Mr Ivan Arkhipov, aged 70, First Deputy Premier and a Kremlin specialist on Asian affairs, has retired for health reasons, Tass reported yesterday.

Journalists back safely

Bangkok (Reuters) - An Australian journalist wounded in Cambodia and a Canadian colleague taken all there have crossed safely into Thailand. Thai military sources said.

Drug swoop

Karachi (Reuters) - Pakistani narcotics agents have arrested eight Tanzanians and a Nigerian in anti-smuggling operations in Karachi, security sources said.

Poison death

Peking (AP) - A 24-year-old woman killed herself by taking poison rather than marry the man chosen by her parents against her will, the Youth Daily said.

120 banished

Tehran (Reuters) - Another 120 Iranian drug addicts have been banished to an unguaged island colony in the Gulf used as a rehabilitation centre.

New trial

Detroit (Reuters) - John DeLorean, the former General Motors executive, acquitted two years ago in a cocaine case, goes on trial again today accused of defrauding investors in his sports car firm.

Church head

Belgrade (Reuters) - The Macedonian Orthodox Church has named Metropolitan Gavril of the Vardar region its new head and promoted him to the rank of archbishop.

Athens blasts

Athens (Reuters) - Four time-bombs damaged government offices in suburbs of Athens, but there were no reports of casualties.

Exhausted

Sydney (Reuters) - Dozens of people collapsed from exhaustion as 300,000 people crowded open days on warships visiting Sydney Harbour to help the Royal Australian Navy celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Fishing deal

Madrid - An agreement which will allow Spanish fishermen to return to a disputed zone in the Bay of Biscay under French jurisdiction was announced by Señor Carlos Romero, Spain's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Quick admission Atom emergency will help summit

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin's swift and unprecedented announcement of Friday's serious fire which crippled a Soviet nuclear submarine in the western Atlantic was seen by observers here as a successful move to defuse any tension with the US over the incident in advance of this week's crucial pre-summit meeting in Iceland.

The first announcement of the accident by Tass came in the form of an 11-line communiqué which was published on the agency's international wiremore than 24 hours after fire swept through part of the Yankee I class submarine on patrol in the Atlantic.

The crippled Russian nuclear submarine, wallowing in the Atlantic Ocean with 16 nuclear missiles on board, provided the first test of an international convention signed 10 days ago.

Massive delta job completed

From Robert Schuil Amsterdam

The Netherlands delta works, the largest flood protection scheme in the world, which took 33 years, £2.4 billion and 12,000 people to build, is finished.

The decision to embark on the scheme was taken after nearly 2,000 people drowned in February 1953.

When newly-refuelled, the reactor core - with enough energy for more than 150,000 cruising miles - is a potential bomb. The severity of radioactive fall-out from a Chernobyl-type explosion at sea would depend on the length of time the reactor had been running.

Salvador peace march

San Salvador (Reuters) - About 15,000 peasants and workers marched through the capital yesterday to demand an end to El Salvador's seven-year civil war and to protest at proposed government austerity measures.

Peace talks proposed for last month fell through when neither side could agree on conditions.

Nuclear pact checks failed to stop Israel bomb

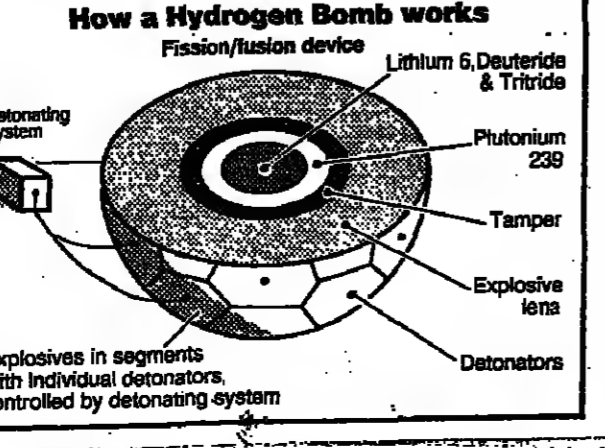
By Pearce Wright Science Editor

The claim yesterday that Israel is stockpiling the material necessary for assembling H-bombs indicates a failure of international measures to prevent the proliferation of components for making nuclear weapons from ostensibly civil installations.

The most terrifying part of the new report shows how Israeli scientists have progressed to a second generation nuclear bomb design, with thermo-nuclear explosives.

Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing plant of six stores, built below the Negev desert. Storage or disposal of the waste, particularly the contaminated water, must present horrendous problems.

The larger of the two Israeli research installations, a heavy water reactor, which came into operation in 1963, holds less than half a ton of uranium.



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Sleepy French hamlet turned into an armed camp for visit of Pope

Paray-le-Monial (AP) — Taizé, a tiny village nesting on a hillside and normally an oasis of tranquility in Burgundy, acquired the aura of an armed camp yesterday as it commensal with all the Pope's stops on his current tour, massive security was in evidence everywhere.

Pathways used for contemplative walks were patrolled by armed gendarmes; a bell-tower was converted into a watchtower, with sharpshooters at the ready, and security police peered out from cornfields and cow pastures shrouded in the early morning fog.

The Pope visited the small ecumenical religious community to address 600 faithful gathered in an interlocking tent and church.

The non-denominational Christian community and its Church of the Reconciliation,

visited by as many as 2,000 pilgrims a week, many of them young, was praised by the Pope as a work recognized as a symbol of a "springtime of the spirit".

The community's 80 Protestant and Catholic brothers from 20 countries pray for the reunification of all Christian churches.

The Pope was greeted by Brother Roger, the 71-year-old son of a Swiss Protestant clergyman, who founded the Taizé community during the Second World War, and who has counselled many Popes.

The Pope described the retreat as a potent force for unity among religions in the world and termed ecumenism as one of his "pastoral priorities".

He was aware of the unique and original vocation of the brothers which "may meet with lack of understanding

and suspicion. But because of your passion for the reconciliation of all Christians I am sure that you will know how to continue to be available to do the will of the Lord."

Later during his homily at Mass, the Pope returned to the offensive against abortion and divorce.

He urged Catholics to work at conserving "a heart of flesh, a heart that has a human sensibility and a heart that lets itself be conquered by the Holy Spirit".

On the second day of a four-day visit to France, he described the increasing numbers of broken families and abortions as "signs of a real and true sickness that hits at people, couples, children and society itself".

On several occasions he used the image of "springtime" to urge a spiritual rebirth for French Catholics.



Two children in Burgundian folk costume sharing confidences with the Pope on his arrival at the village of Paray-le-Monial yesterday, the second day of his visit to France.

Marcos to sue Manila for \$10m

Former President Marcos is seeking to sue the Philippine Government for \$10 million (£6.9 million) on the ground that it was seizing his property and damaging his reputation (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Mr Marcos named the United States in a court motion, filed in Honolulu, as a

co-conspirator, but not as a defendant. He said in his suit that the US was preventing him from going home. Congress was spreading details of his personal life and US Customs were holding his property.

It was announced in Manila yesterday that President

Aquino would pay a state visit to Japan next month.

Meanwhile, Philippine Government forces and Communist rebels agreed to a ceasefire in Quezon province to allow negotiations on the release of two captured soldiers.

Turin shroud mystery

Go-ahead given for dating tests

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Pope has given permission for carbon tests to be carried out to establish the age of the Holy Shroud of Turin, and he may have opened the way to a decisive answer to the long-debated question of its authenticity.

Turin's shroud is the piece of linen cloth which is traditionally regarded as the winding-sheet in which the body of the crucified Jesus was wrapped when taken down from the cross.

As such the Turin shroud has been the subject of great veneration through the centuries. It is kept in a special chapel added to the cathedral for its safekeeping.

The shroud was the property of the House of Savoy from medieval times until the late ex-king Umberto of Italy willed it to the present Pope.

The shroud is jealously protected and shown to the public only rarely. The last time was in 1978, when the Pope, then a cardinal, was among pilgrims who went to Turin to see it.

The request was made then to test the age of the cloth by scientific methods. The fact that the Pope has now heeded that request will be widely welcomed, especially by those who applaud his view that religious belief and scientific inquiry should not be regarded as necessarily in conflict.

The Pope has ordered scientists to have the report ready for publication by Easter 1988.

In addition to reporting on the shroud's estimated age, they will be asked to examine the cloth in all its aspects and also the highly intriguing marks, which reveal not only the imprint of a face but also signs consistent with flogging and crucifixion.

These marks were either left by a mixture of blood and sweat or, if one takes the view of the sceptics, were fabricated by a clever medieval forger. The investigation should throw light on that fundamental question.

The idea of an imitation done in medieval times derives from the fact that a relic revered as a shroud was known to be in Constantinople in 1204. After that nothing was heard of it until its appearance in France in 1363.

But was the shroud, now in Turin, the same one the Crusaders saw in Constantinople? And was that one a genuine relic?

So far the only indication, apart from long tradition of belief in its genuineness, is that pollens have been identified in the fabric which suggested that it originated in ancient Palestine, while traces are also said to have been found of human elements in the marks.

Druze raze homes of Lebanon Shias

From Robert Fisk, Jiyeh

In one of the most systematic acts of destruction to have taken place in Lebanon in the past two years, Druze militiamen of Mr Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party have razed the homes of hundreds of Shia Muslims in the coastal town of Jiyeh, apparently intent on turning the Mediterranean seaboard in this part of Lebanon into an exclusively Druze fiefdom.

Most of the Shia of this town have moved into the homes of Christians, who had been evicted by the Druze during a six-hour battle in the spring of last year. But the new Shia inhabitants, themselves refugees from other parts of the country, thought they had found safety from the war affecting the rest of Lebanon.

They were wrong. Over the past two weeks, I have watched bulldozers driving into the walls and supporting pillars of the two-storey villas on the coast road, while their Shia occupants watched helplessly from the grass and fields next to their homes.

In some cases, families were given only a few hours to drag their cheap furniture from their homes before the demolition teams moved in to level the houses in front of them.

In one case, when the Druze were unable to demolish a three-storey building with bulldozers, they placed explosive charges beside the stone pillars outside the front doors and blew the house to pieces.

Jiyeh, which stands halfway between Beirut and Sidon, now resembles a battleground, with little more than a power station, two rows of shops and a clutch of Druze homes to mark its presence on the map.

The irony of this drama — and in Lebanon the ironies are cruel and pointed — is that when the Druze captured the town from the Christian Phalangist militia last year, Shia Muslims took part in looting and stealing Christian homes.

The Maronite church here was desecrated and then blasted to the ground with gelignite after the town was occupied. But now the Shias themselves have become the victims of the same tactics.

I saw Druze gunmen standing on the roadway while Shia families sat atop a pile of sofas and chairs watching their homes being demolished in front of them.

There is little doubt about the reasons for this extraordinary but deliberate depopulation. None of the Shias of Jiyeh have been harmed but the Druze have long maintained that the Chouf mountains and the coastline to the west are their territory.

And the growing political and military power of the Shias, especially in southern Lebanon, has caused deep concern to the Druze who fear that their own mountain domain, which Mr Jumblatt rules from the picturesque hamlet of Moukhiara, could in years to come fall under the domination of the country's largest community.

There is, however, scarcely a religious sect in Lebanon which has not evicted members of another community with equal determination in the past four years.

Christians have forced Druze from their homes, Shias have evicted Palestinians from parts of west Beirut and Sunni Muslims have driven Christians from their houses in Sidon. Lebanon is being "cantonized" by its individual communities as never before.

Nor is there any end in sight. Only yesterday, fighting started again between Shia Muslim Amal militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas in the Rashidiyah camp south of Tyre. Given the mutual suspicion between the two sides, not to mention the camp's proximity to Israel, it promises to be a long war.

Envoy row in Tehran

By Hazhir Teimourian

The arrest last week in Tehran of Mr Iyad al-Mahmoud, the Second Secretary at the Syrian Embassy, has developed into a diplomatic scandal that threatens Iran's relations with its ally, President Assad of Syria.

The diplomat was freed 24 hours later, and for the next two days the spokesman of the Iranian Government claimed that he had been kidnapped by imperialist agents. But it emerged on Saturday that Mr Mahmoud had been arrested by anti-vice officers of the Government itself.

Mr Mahmoud told correspondents that he did not know who his abductors were. He said they had not made any demands of him, nor had they mistreated him.

But sources within the Government told another correspondent that the diplomat had been arrested for being drunk and in the company of women, a crime that usually carries the death sentence by stoning in Iran. He had been freed thanks to his diplomatic immunity.

Early last week, President Assad, one of the main suppliers of Soviet-made arms to Iran in its war with Iraq, said he wanted a union with Iraq as a way to end the war. The suggestion was not well received in Tehran.

Paris — The Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, has paid a 48-hour official visit to Morocco, ending Saturday, during which he met King Hassan (Susan MacDonald writes).

The Minister for Security, M Robert Pandraud, also on the trip, announced that the Maghreb countries — Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia — must now conform to anti-terrorism visa regulations.

Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian residents in France will also require re-entry visas after travel abroad.

Abdallah in jail switch

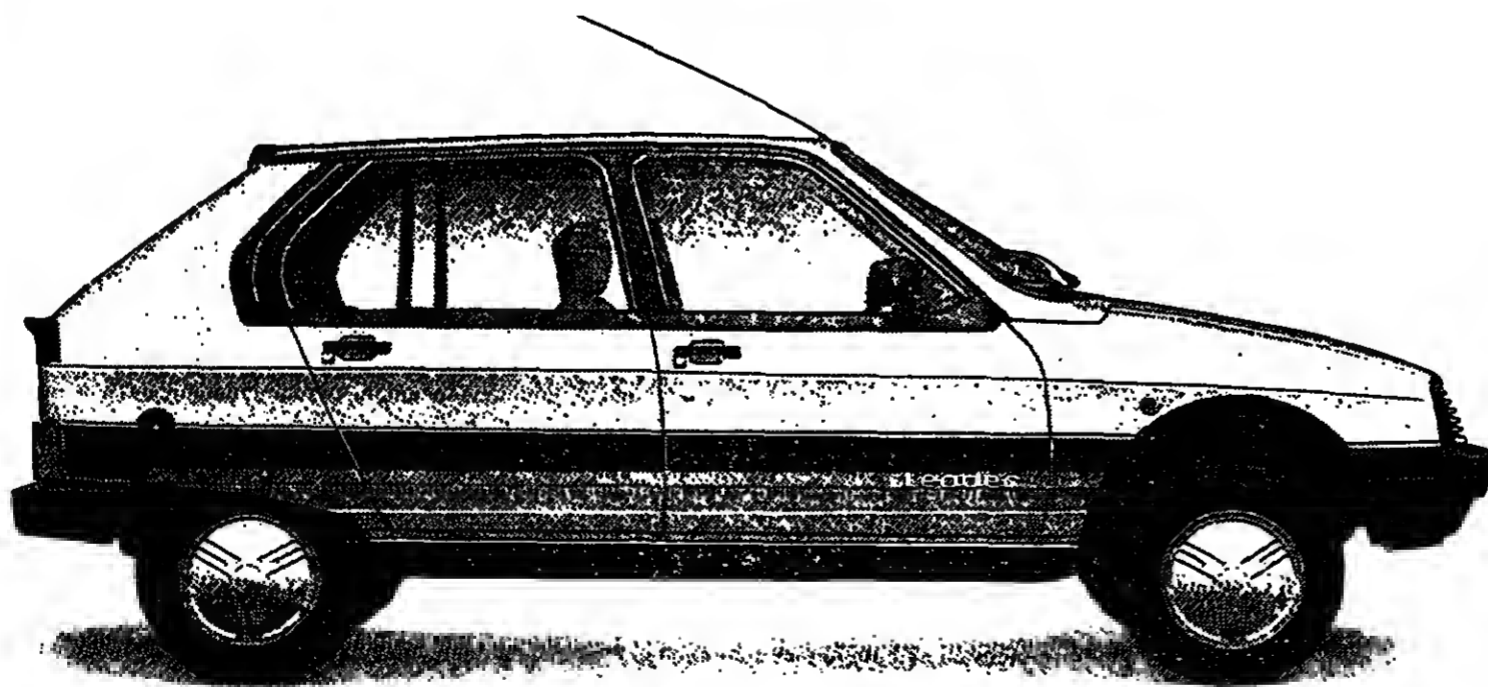
Paris — Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the suspected terrorist leader, has been moved from the Santé prison in Paris to another jail in the Paris area (Susan MacDonald writes).

Varonian Garbidjian, convicted for taking part in the Orly airport bombing in 1983, has been moved from the Santé to Clairvaux prison.

Both men were transferred to the Santé two weeks ago. They joined Anis Naccache, imprisoned for attempting to kill the Shah of Iran's last Prime Minister, Mr Shapur Bakhtiar, in Paris in 1980.

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البريد المجاني

Walesa called in again for warning Hopes for negotiations dashed by ban on new Solidarity council

The Polish Government moved quickly at the weekend to ban a new Solidarity council and is warning Mr Lech Walesa, the union leader, and several other former underground figures that they may again face imprisonment. The decision has put paid to any hopes that the Government would negotiate with the reconstituted union, even in its Solidarity form. Leaders, freed under a wide-ranging amnesty for political prisoners, had re-established a "Temporary Solidarity Council" as a pressure group for workers' rights. Seven former underground leaders, including Mr Zbigniew Bujak and Mr Bogdan Lis, would have run the council at a national level, while important cities would also have had regional affiliates. The idea was to find a way in which Solidarity could deal with the Government. The authorities called Mr Walesa and other leaders to "warning talks" on Saturday. The official view is that the new council is illegal under the Administrative Code. This code, which among other things states that all

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

associations must be officially registered, will probably be used more frequently as the authorities try to control Solidarity. The official hope is clearly that a mesh of fines and suspended sentences will deter dissidents, but at the same time avoid the need for a large number of arrests. At the weekend seven members of an illegal peace group were fined for staging a brief sit-down demonstration on Friday outside Warsaw's main supermarket. The authorities have said that they are willing to consult non-communists, even those who could be construed as dissidents, providing they are not "anti-socialist" and they operate legally and within the constitution. But a weekend statement by Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, makes clear that Solidarity councils do not come into this category. "The council is another illegal structure," he said. "There have been a lot of them that have disappeared or were liquidated according to the law. If a handful of extremists force, today or in the future, a rigorous application of the law towards them,

let nobody later call for new humanitarian acts." Mr Urban was thus warning that there would be no more amnesties for political prisoners. MOSCOW: Pravda denounced the newly-created Solidarity council yesterday and said its leaders wanted to plunge Poland into anarchy (Reuter reports). Giving the most authoritative reaction from Moscow to the council, Pravda said some people in Poland had failed to grasp the significance of a recent amnesty that freed all political prisoners. "There is a small group of people who are trying to use the amnesty to return to the situation of turmoil, induced by anti-socialist forces, which existed up to the introduction of martial law in December 1981," the paper said. The article said that the amnesty had received support from "broad circles of Polish society" and had cut the ground from under the Polish opposition. It said Poland "is advancing on the road of social and economic progress and is gaining in strength".



Vehicles submerged under water and mud in the Spanish Mediterranean city of Alicante after flooding caused by sudden storms caught residents and holidaymakers unawares.

UK police aid French murder hunt

By Our Foreign Staff

Two senior British detectives will today fly to France to join the hunt for the killers of two Norfolk teachers, amid mounting criticism of the French police's handling of the case. The bodies of Lorraine Glasby, aged 28, and her fiancé, Paul Bellion, aged 30, were found in a shallow grave in a Brittany farm field last

week. They had been shot. Their half-naked bodies were tied back-to-back and they had been gagged with sticks. The couple had been missing on a cycling holiday since August 16. Their bodies were found last Wednesday morning, but it took the police until Saturday to make a positive identification, even though Norfolk

detectives had already sent them dental records. The first Norfolk police knew of the discovery of the bodies was when they were contacted by a newspaper. Paris: The French police have opened a murder enquiry into the schoolteachers' deaths, but investigations are thought likely to be long and difficult (Susan MacDonald writes).

Ministers held after 'coup' fails in Uganda

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Mr Paulo Muwanga, the former Vice-President of Uganda, was among a number of politicians arrested in Kampala at the weekend after new attacks on Uganda Army positions near the Sudan border and an apparent bid to overthrow President Yoweri Museveni. Two ministers in Mr Museveni's Government, Mr Andrew Kayira (Energy) and Mr David Luwaga (Environment), are among others arrested. Several officers in the guerrilla movement which was led by Mr Kayira before President Milton Obote was overthrown last year have also been detained. The arrests follow an attack on a Uganda Army unit near Kitgum, northern Uganda, on Friday. The Government says the attackers were driven off with at least 88 casualties, and it claims that there is no longer a serious security threat, although scattered bands of rebels are still at large. Uganda Radio yesterday broadcast a statement announcing the arrests, saying criminal charges would follow. It said loyal Army units had been infiltrated in some cases, and arms had even been abandoned for the rebels to take over.

US envoy leaves Pretoria for home

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The US Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel, left for home at the weekend, two days after the imposition against this country by Congress of economic sanctions which he had eloquently opposed during his four and a half years here. Mr Nickel acknowledged at an airport press conference here that there was a certain fortuitous symmetry about the timing of his departure. Sanctions were "a considerable setback," Mr Nickel admitted. But he was confident that "the course we have pursued will be seen to be the most effective and rational approach." A former journalist, who was expelled in the 1960s while serving here as bureau chief for Time magazine, Mr Nickel was appointed ambassador on the recommendation of Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Dr Crocker was impressed by an article Mr Nickel had written, which argued that the US stood a better chance of bringing about change by becoming involved politically and economically than by ostracising Pretoria. This was taken up by Dr Crocker and dubbed "constructive engagement."

Beef shortage in Brazil Sarney confronts angry ranchers

From A Correspondent, Rio de Janeiro

A "gentlemen's agreement" between the Brazilian Government and cattle ranchers to maintain a steady supply of fresh beef has broken down, leaving butchers' counters nearly bare and tempers short. A spokesman for President Sarney announced last week that if meat did not appear in the markets soon the Government would be forced to seize cattle from 300 ranchers and take punitive action against borderers, such as cutting off rural loans and credits. "The Government has exhausted all its instruments of negotiation by peaceful means," declared Senhor Fernando Cesar Mesquita, the President's spokesman. The announcement came less than a week after Brasilia and ranchers reached an accord, the second in a matter of months, to boost the retail price of beef, which had been frozen since March under the Government's anti-inflation plan. Although some cattlemen had responded to the Government's call for co-operation, supply of fresh beef is still far below normal. Ranchers are sending about 10,000 head of cattle a day to the abattoirs, around half the number being delivered at this time last year. Ranchers said the new price, about £13 for 33 lb, was too low. They also argued that the meat shortage had been caused mainly by a boom in consumer demand and not because ranchers have kept cattle in the field. The row has turned into one of the most serious challenges

to President Sarney's heralded seven-month economic stabilization programme, the Cruzado plan, which froze prices and knocked the 250 per cent annual inflation rate down to single digits. Under the plan, the Government gave workers an 8 per cent wage increase in March, and since then Brazilians have enjoyed a 30 per cent increase in purchasing power. As a result, Brazilians, especially the poor, are buying as never before, but supermarkets have been hard pressed to maintain stocks of basic items such as meat, eggs and milk. A black market for many goods has emerged. In this mainly rural country, with the world's fourth-largest herd of cattle, ranchers represent a wealthy and powerful lobby, and have been the most visible source of resistance to the continued price freeze. But a presidential aide said that Senhor Sarney's high popularity ratings meant that a move to force recalcitrant cattlemen into line would win widespread approval. But farmers are worried. "Economic problems require economic solutions, not the power of the police," said Senhor Flavio Telles Meneses, head of a farmers' association. As ranchers and government officials argue, most people in this land know for smouldering barbecues have been left to eat more scrambled eggs and vegetable casseroles.

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Row over Philippine domestics

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

Controversy is growing here over the growing number of domestic helpers from the Philippines, and their tendency to gather on Sundays in large numbers on the central district of Hong Kong Island to chat, barter and eat picnic lunches. There are nearly 27,000 Philippine maids and child-minders in Hong Kong, their stay regulated by obligatory contracts with their employers, which are supervised by the Philippines Government. Some conservative elements in Hong Kong, both British and Chinese, object to the gathering of domestic helpers in the heart of the central business district. Others, however, feel the small-statured women generally create a cheerful and colourful atmosphere and they support their need for recreation and a place to gather. Problems between the maids and their Chinese or European employers have led some women to quit for jobs in bars and as prostitutes. Chinese women prefer work in factories or in commerce to employment as domestics.

Opposition chief quits in Sind

From Our Correspondent Karachi

Mr Makhdoom Khaliq uz-Zaman, the Sind provincial president of Miss Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), resigned from his post at the weekend. In an open letter to Miss Bhutto, the co-chairman of the party, he said he was resigning in the interests of the party, but expressed a desire to retain his seat on the central committee. It is only three months since Mr Khaliq, aged 32, replaced Mr Mustafa Jatoi, the former Chief Minister in the Government of the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, as the leader of the opposition party in Pakistan's most troubled and turbulent province. Sind was the principal centre of anti-government agitation in August this year, in which more than 30 people died. It is believed that Mr Khaliq had developed serious differences with Miss Bhutto over the autonomy issue. He had taken an increasingly aggressive stance against the majority province of Punjab, a stronghold of the PPP, and his departure will be a big setback for the party.

Rock seeks air links

Gibraltar—GB Airways has announced firm plans for direct daily flights to Geneva and Frankfurt, to take advantage of new economic prospects created by the opening of the Spanish frontier (Dominique Searle writes). The privately-owned com-

pany is confident that Britain will give the go-ahead, although the Spanish are currently seeking joint use of the colony's tiny airport. Direct air travel between Gibraltar and the mainland is still the subject of discussion between Britain and Spain.

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Succession of blunders uncovered after assassination attempt

Gandhi wants big security reorganization

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, returned at the weekend from a tour of two southern states to press for a big reorganization of security services following the attempt on his life last week.

A Home Ministry inquiry has been mounted into the various failings at Rajghat, the state memorial, when a lone

surrounding the Prime Minister are now shown to have been so lackadaisical that an observer could remark yesterday: "The reason why Rajiv likes to travel abroad so much is because he feels safer there."

A senior Home Ministry official has been asked to undertake the inquiry into the security lapses, covering the roles assigned to the three or four agencies charged with the Prime Minister's protection.

They are the Special Protection Group, in charge of the inner cordon of security; the black-clad commandoes of the National Security Guard, who provide the middle-rank deterrence, and the outer ring manned by the security wing of the Delhi police and the guards and sentries of the Delhi Armed Police.

Miss Neeraja Mishra, aged 23, the air hostess shot dead while helping passengers to escape from the hijacked Pan Am jet at Karachi last month, was posthumously given the Ashok Chakra award, India's highest civilian honour for bravery (Reuter reports from Delhi).

Sikh gunman failed to assassinate him only because of the inadequacies of his homemade pistol.

At the same time the Punjab authorities are anxiously probing the weaknesses in their police force, which allowed terrorists to come within a hair's breadth of killing the head of the state police in the heart of a police cantonment.

The gunman, who has now been identified as Karamjit Singh, a clean-shaven Sikh from Sangrur district of Punjab, seeking vengeance for a friend who died in Delhi riots in 1984, concealed himself overnight on the canopy and remained undetected through a search of the grounds the previous evening and earlier in the morning.

Secondly, when Karamjit fired his first shot virtually everybody present heard it, but the security services vied with each other to persuade the Prime Minister that it was nothing to worry about.

A renewed search of the area was carried out with metal detectors and dogs, nonetheless.

The metal detector turned up an odd-looking piece of metal in a flower bed - the roughly made bullet that had been fired. The dogs began straining at the leash beneath the canopy, but when a sub-inspector in charge of the handlers told the Special Protection Group, they pooched the report, believing

the Delhi police to be an inferior force.

Despite the unexplained shot, the Prime Minister's route away from the memorial was not changed, though this is said to be common security practice.

He was thus exposed for a second and third shot from the man in the creepers.

The attempt the next day on Mr Julio Ribeiro, director general of the Punjab police, was much more professional and determined.



A policeman restraining a Hindu, left, and a Sikh after riots broke out during a weekend Hindu procession in Delhi.

A band of heavily armed terrorists forced their way to the very lawns of the officers' mess in the headquarters of the Punjab Armed Police in Jullundur, and is assumed to have had help or at least the connivance of members of the force itself.

Since Mrs Gandhi's assassination several other heavily guarded public figures have died: a Delhi MP, the leader of the moderate wing of the Sikh political party and the former Army Chief of Staff.

Security arrangements

Loser who became nation's most popular premier

This is the last week Mr Shimon Peres will serve as Prime Minister of Israel - although he hopes this demotion is purely temporary. On Friday he hands in his resignation and changes places with his arch rival, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister. In the first of two articles, Ian Murray reports from Jerusalem on the end of the first stage of an uneasy alliance.

After formal consultations between President Chaim Herzog and the various political groups, the new government of Mr Shamir should be ready to be sworn in by tomorrow week, the day after Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

In resigning Mr Peres is honouring the coalition agreement struck between his Labour alignment and Mr Shamir's Likud faction 25 months ago, after the two main political groupings had fought each other to a standstill in the last general election.

Despite their profound dislike of each other, the two groups decided they would rather work together than go either into opposition or try to run a government with a water-thin majority doomed to early failure.

The mood of the country was then, and remained, opposed to another election and in favour of a government prepared to get on with the job of confronting the serious economic, social and international pressures facing the embattled state of Israel.

Mr Shamir made political capital out of this last month when Mr Peres threatened to halt government business because he had been insulted again by the rogue elephant of the Likud, Mr Ariel Sharon.

"I think that the public, the people, want unity today," Mr Shamir said. "It wants a unified, united Cabinet, precisely because of the need for decisions that are not easy... we have to concentrate on more serious matters. I hope that plain commonsense will get the upper hand."

Plain commonsense did. The crisis was averted and this unlikely government of equal enemies survived once again.

For the second time in a year the unrepentant Mr Sharon was forced to make a public apology to Mr Peres, who has throughout the past 25 months skilfully used the threat of bringing down the Government to force his coalition partners to accept proposals and disciplines they do not always like.

It has been 25 months in which Mr Peres has transformed his public image from that of a shifty, lack-lustre loser into the most popular Prime Minister in the history of Israel.

In 1981 he lost an election

he should have won after a Likud poster appeared showing his face with the caption: "Look him straight in the eyes. Can he be trusted?"

A couple of weeks ago he returned from the United States and said proudly, if a little naively: "I'm simply embarrassed to repeat what they said about me. My standing was that of a statesman with world recognition and this was something we have lacked for a long time. We have world credibility. Today I have an almost unlimited credit line."

His problem is to make that credit line last for the 25 months ahead while Mr Shamir runs the Government. He has only this week in which to capitalize on that credit domestically, before going into relative obscurity, while his rival holds centre

The Israeli handover Part 1

stage in what is bound to be a long run-up to the next general election, due in November 1988.

This very long week in Israeli politics has to be used to sort out the details of "rotation" - the code word for this unique political handover.

There are two important issues at stake. The first is whether Mr Peres can insist on a continuing economic role.

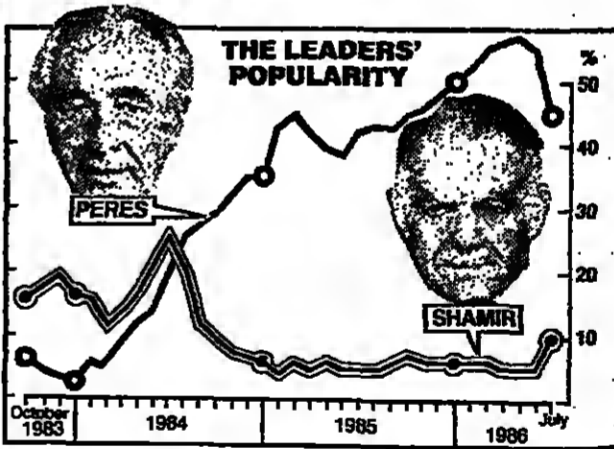
The second is whether Mr Yitzhak Modai, the Finance and Justice Minister whom he sacked for being insulting, will be brought back into the Cabinet.

Beyond rotation itself looms the continuing quest for peace. Mr Peres has been usurping Mr Shamir's role as Foreign Minister in this area, taking initiatives that have gone well beyond what the Likud leader really approves of.

There will inevitably be rows and mini-crises on these and perhaps other issues during the week, but all the signs are that rotation will go ahead on schedule.

Mr Peres even seems resigned to playing second fiddle for the next two years. "Perhaps it is worth taking a break after two such intensive years," he said wearily the other day. "I have the feeling that I made the maximum effort. There was a difficult period and no one was sure how it would turn out. The main thing is that what we said and promised came about."

The question is whether things will go on "coming about" after rotation. Tomorrow: The search for peace.



Colombo seeks an end to Tamil deadlock

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The next round of talks between the Sri Lanka Government and Tamil leaders is scheduled for Delhi on October 16, the Government-controlled Sunday Observer said yesterday.

It said that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, would meet Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on Wednesday in connection with the talks.

All guerrilla groups fighting for an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka have their headquarters in Tamil Nadu, in south India.

Meanwhile the Island, an independent newspaper, said yesterday that the Sri Lanka Government, in its latest attempts to break the deadlock, has proposed a boundaries commission, in accordance with repeated Tamil demands.

The Government wants devolution through provincial councils but the Tamils insist on the Northern and Eastern Provinces being united. The Government, however, points

out that Tamils constitute only 41 per cent of the population in the Eastern Province.

The Tamil United Liberation Front has now asked for the Tamil-dominated areas of the Eastern Province to be merged with those of the Northern Province, thus making way for consideration of a boundaries commission.

India is believed to have told the Tamils that they could expect no more from the Sri Lankans government than the granting of powers akin to those currently enjoyed by Indian states.

● COLOMBO: At least 10 guerrillas have been killed and 18 arrested in a four-day government drive against rebel hideouts in eastern Sri Lanka, a military official said yesterday (Reuter reported).

Troops recovered 1,500 detonators, 45 landmines and a massive haul of arms and ammunition in the operation, which saw the most bitter fighting in recent months.

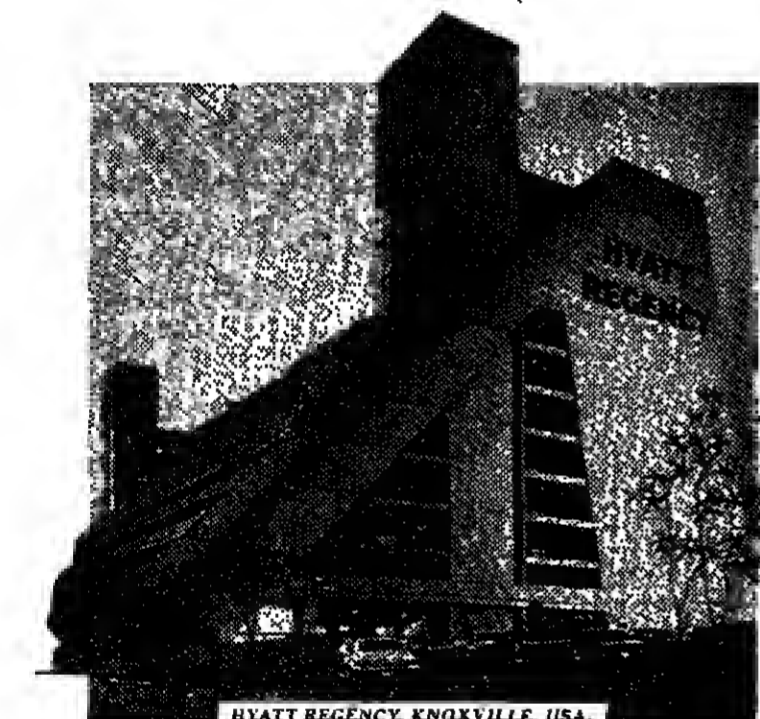
Floods claim 42 lives

Dhaka - Bangladesh officials say floods caused by torrential rains over the past week claimed 42 lives and left more than 100,000 people homeless (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Overflowing rivers are said to have destroyed 1,500 square kilometres of crops. Army units and Red Cross volunteers helped police to set up more than 100 relief centres, in which 20,000 people took shelter.

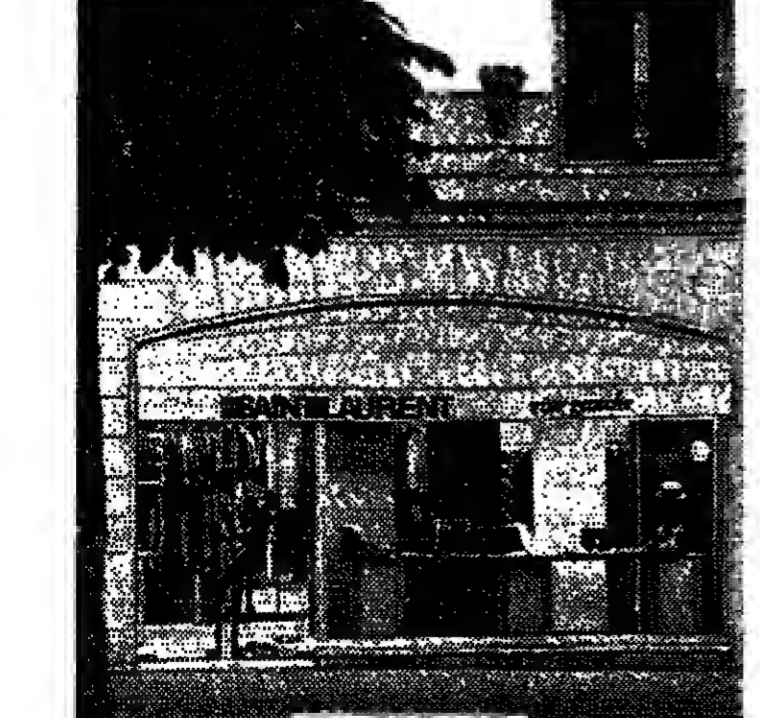
● Strike ends: Newspapers reappeared yesterday for the first time in two weeks. Some 7,000 journalists and print workers called off a strike after the owners of the Bangladesh Observer agreed to discuss the reopening of the country's oldest English-language daily, which was closed down three months ago.

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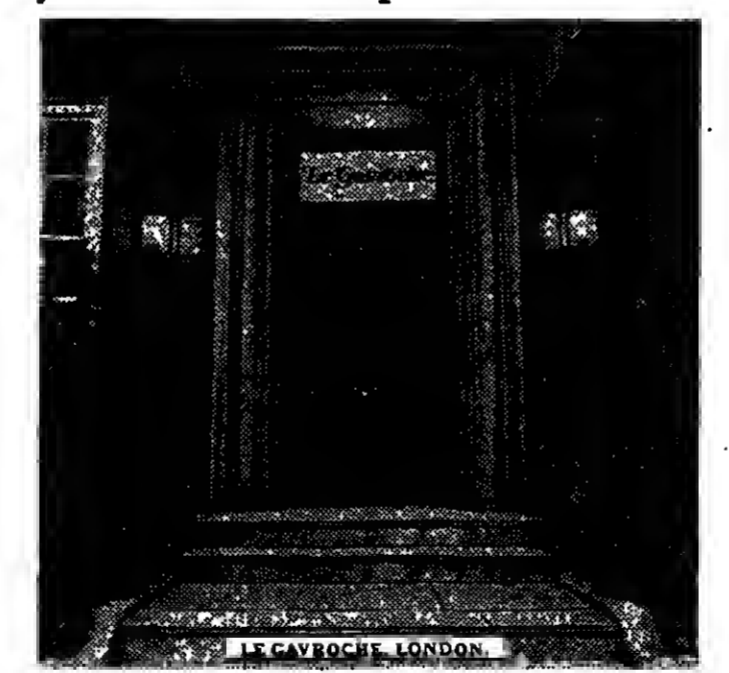
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Child and father of revolution

It is only recently that Laszlo Rajk has come to understand his father — Hungary's Interior Minister after World War Two and architect of the now notorious show trials of 1949. Rajk's search for the truth was, at times, painful, as he tells Roger Boyes



Pride of place: "Rajk junior, by then six years old, joined his mother and thousands of mourners at the graveside of the man he never knew"

'It was Rajk's funeral, 30 years ago today, that sparked the Hungarian uprising'

oriented by torture, clung to that central tenet of his life: the party is always right.

That the Rajks were still a political symbol in 1956 was demonstrated at the grand reburial of Laszlo. Tens of thousands of Hungarians attended the ceremony. His body represented a Communist revolution that ate its children. It was a reminder of how a rigid Stalinist system had been grafted on to a country with cruelty and mendacity.

The 1956 revolution took off from there and, when the Soviet tanks puffed out the flame on November 4, the Rajks, widow and son, were smuggled out to Romania with the help of the Yugoslav embassy.

After the Hungarian leader Imre Nagy was executed in 1958 "it was considered safe to bring us back". Under the rule of Kadar, the young Rajk settled down to a normal life using his real name. But whereas most Hungarians were content to make a tacit bargain with the Kadar leadership — calm and consumer comfort at the cost of certain restricted personal freedoms — Rajk junior was uncomfortable.

He is a versatile man: trained as an architect, he is also a designer and video producer. But his political passion is the need for cultural pluralism and this has driven him into the small group of Hungarian oppositionists.

For some years he has not been able to travel to other Communist countries and was allowed to go to New York only because he was invited by a millionaire of Hungarian extraction, a man the authorities did not want to offend. Even then it took him three years to get his passport. In June he was pushed out of his job in a state design office.

As for his father, he is now a proletarian hero, his body lying in the Mausoleum of the Workers' Movement. Aware of the irony, the son goes there often to lay flowers next to the father he never knew.

First Tuesday will be shown on ITV tomorrow at 10.30pm.

Sometimes a voice will rise above the bustle of the Budapest traffic and shout "Istvan". A common name, a common shout. Laszlo Rajk (pronounced "Rike"), an imposing leather-jacketed figure with a spiky Mohican haircut, whirls around in a moment of forgetting, like a dog responding to the wrong whistle. He was called Istvan once and many other names were assigned to him while his country tried first to camouflage, then heal, the hurt of his father's arrest, trial and execution.

Now he is Laszlo Rajk again and searching for the truth about his dead, famous, father, Laszlo Rajk, whom he never knew. The name connects and haunts. For a time last summer, Laszlo junior was living in a street named after Laszlo senior; the rehabilitation of his father has entered the geography of Budapest. Father and son, the primal male bond, is also, in the case of the Rajks, the story of post-war Communism in Hungary and eastern Europe, a story of underground struggle, of manipulated power, of trials and torture, of induced calm, careful change and moral stagnation.

That Laszlo Rajk has an identity problem is an understatement. Imagine a street corner in Budapest in 1953. A woman is waiting... the authorities have told her to wait. A black limousine, an important looking car, the sort with curtains concealing the occupants, draws up. The door opens, a boy is put down on the

pavement and the car sweeps away.

The woman kneels down and takes the child's hand. She starts speaking gently. "That was me", Rajk remembers. "I didn't answer to my name she called me... it was as if I was a little stray dog brushing her ankles."

The woman was his aunt and it was because of her persistent badgering of the authorities that the boy was released from the orphanage where he had "vanished" aged four months following the arrest of his parents. (Years later, Rajk was to find a name change stapled to his birth certificate: the name was "Istvan Kovacs", the Hungarian equivalent of "John Smith").

For a year the boy believed his aunt to be his mother; she feared to tell him differently. Then his mother was released from prison. Stalin was dead and the eastern bloc began the painful business of rewriting the history of the purges, including the reputation of Hungary's former Interior Minister and Communist Party hero, Laszlo Rajk.

Ironically, it was the recovery of Rajk's body from an unmarked grave and his funeral, 30 years ago today, that sparked the Hungarian uprising on October 23 1956. Rajk junior, by then six years old, joined his mother and thousands of mourners at the graveside of the man he never knew.

Yorkshire Television, in its First Tuesday programme, has given amicrophone no Rajk junior,

helped him search for his father in the memories of his contemporaries, and in so doing uncover the tensions that preceded and underpinned the 1956 revolution.

Rajk junior is a dissident, though he prefers the title "printer" — a printer, that is, of banned literature. Rajk senior was a devoted Communist who, as Interior Minister and supervisor of the police, was largely responsible for the first post-war show trials. Yet he fell victim himself, was beaten and tortured, confessed publicly to trying to overthrow the system and, on October 14 1949, was executed.

He was probably the most important victim of the eastern European show trials, and a frightening example of how the truth was turned inside out in the drive of the local Stalinists to wipe out supporters of a more nationalistic Communism.

There have always been competing theories about why Rajk made his confessions but to his son, born nine months before Rajk was strung up on the gallows, the explanation must take into account every aspect of his father's

life. "He was a fanatic, you see," he says. "We are sitting in a room overlooking the Danube, drinking sweet Austrian beer. "He was a believer who took risks."

He fought the Francoists in the Spanish Civil War, was wounded after his company strayed onto on to a minefield, and interned in France. He escaped — Fascist Hungary was one of the few countries that did not request the release of its citizens from intern-

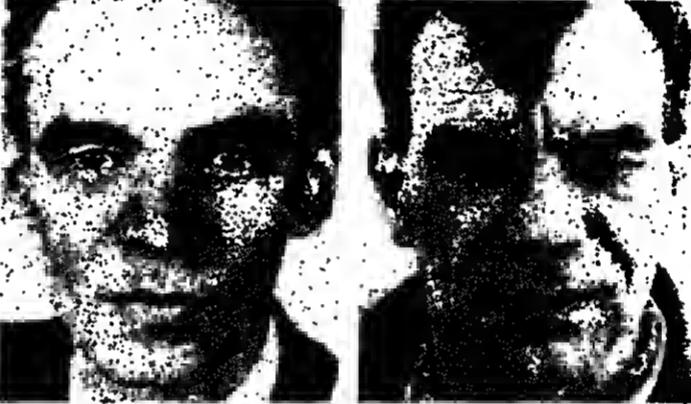
ment — and spent most of the Second World War years commuting between the prison and the underground.

Rajk was a zealot who, when he came close to power, took on some of the characteristics of his persecutors. It was an odd experience for Rajk junior to find, as he came closer to understanding his father, a man who was neither a national hero nor a national villain. "He was tough, very tough, during his

time at the Interior Ministry and he was slowly giving up his personality. The real problem is why he accepted the methods of gaining and exercising power in the first place."

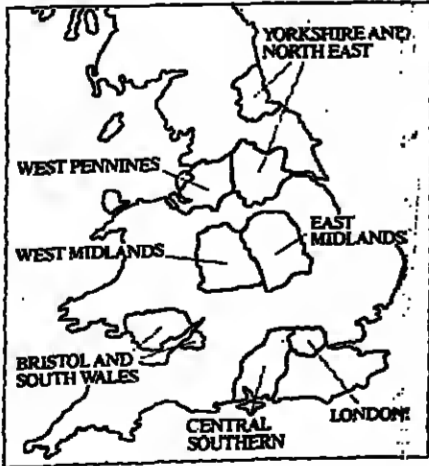
Rajk had argued strongly against making the secret police, the AVH, subject to direct control by the leadership. His main opponent was the secret police chief, Gabor Peter who later became his torturer and jailor. Rajk lost the battle — the secret police swiftly slipped loose of all institutional reins — and the war. Four secret agents dragged him into a black Buick on June 3 1949 and, though he was now Foreign Minister, he was denied access to Matyas Rakosi, the Hungarian leader and Budapest's Stalin.

The Rajks were close friends of Janos Kadar, who has run the country since 1956. It is true that Kadar came to Rajk's prison cell shortly before the trial. But did he propose a softer sentence in return for a full confession? It seems improbable to Rajk junior, but only Kadar, that craggy figure, knows the truth. A more likely explanation is that Rajk, dis-

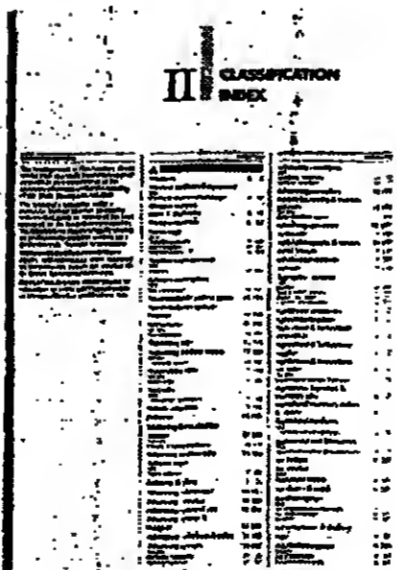


The primal bond: Laszlo Rajk (left) and the son who shares his name

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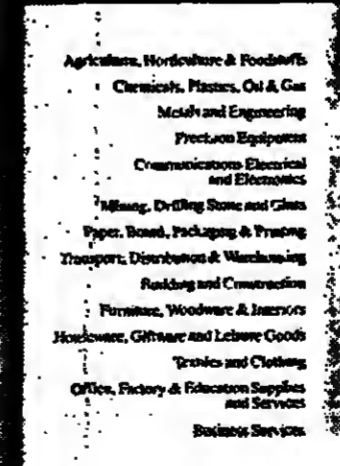
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SECTOR FORMAT

SPECTRUM 2

Into the great class struggle



Do the top public schools give value for your £6,000 a year? Can the state schools ever catch up? And how vital is the personality of the head? Starting today,

Amanda Atha and Sarah Drummond give the findings from their new survey of the country's best schools, beginning with some overall impressions and words of advice

Part 1: Behind the prospectus

The question all parents want to ask - "What's it really like?" - is the one to which they have the most trouble obtaining an answer. With the best will in the world, no one can get around all the schools (though one parent we know inspected 601, and most people do not have the faintest idea what to look for.

whole are more dynamic, have more feeling of vocation - but they are constantly let down by the system. We observed the trend of staff bailing out of state into private schools, where they are welcomed. One at Millfield described himself as "a refugee from the state system".

State school pupils are sloppy, spotty and louche

ofen without foundation. At the end of a reign, things tend to slacken. Success at a previous, often smaller, post does not necessarily mean the head is going to succeed at the new school. We found women head teachers to be of a higher calibre, in general you don't drift into being head of a girl's school.

There are computers everywhere, usually misused or under-used - with honourable exceptions such as Cheltenham College and Sevenoaks - contributing little to the sum of up-to-date useful knowledge. Our impression is that state schools in particular tend to hide behind impressive and expensive new machinery.



Music and art are given greater importance, yet there is a vague acknowledgement that practical courses such as car maintenance or photography may be of more use than a degree in bio-physics. Team sports are no longer overwhelmingly compulsory.

the schools adapt to the new examination system. There are enlarged careers departments, often much criticized by pupils. Only a few schools, such as Moreton Hall and Felixstowe, offer outstanding service in advising pupils about their future.

qualifications - sometimes, we thought, at the risk of sacrificing an all-round education. There is much evidence of burning midnight oil, and staff at Wycombe found it difficult to keep girls in corpore sano when they got up at 4am to study. Today's pupils work far harder, by and large, than their parents' generation ever did.

shortage of good schools in London. The enormously increased demand for places in good day schools has thrown the whole entry system into disarray. Location is now an overriding factor in choosing a school.

We found lovely boys at Eton wearing make-up

sixth form colleges or crammers. It could be said that this sets an undisciplined example for the rest of the school. Many heads admit how difficult it is to impose one set of rules at school, knowing that another prevails at home. Most conduct fierce campaigns against smoking.

The big boys, however, is drugs. Again, it was difficult to obtain a straight answer, but we saw hardly a senior co-ed or boys' school that had not had a drugs problem, or was not in imminent danger of having one.

drain on finances unless the school is very well endowed. Increasingly, fee-paying schools - Sherborne and Malvern, to name but two, and plenty of prep - are rented out for summer schools and conferences to help towards maintenance.

We were astonished by the amount of building going on in the private sector. "Good for morale", as the head of Millon Abbey put it. Is it, we wondered, all really necessary? It is a brave head who says that he is not sure the school actually needs a new sports hall, or a craft, design and technology (CDT) centre. We were also amazed to find how readily parents and old boys and girls meet the appeals.

Another preoccupation of heads - though having more to do with saving money than spending it - is centralized feeding, with lots of note-comparing on how best to design the new dining-halls or convert old ones. Centralized feeding has done more to alter the character of boarding schools than any other form of modernization and has undermined the strength of the house system. We found heads delighting in democratic queuing up. However, having also lunched in traditional formal dining-halls, we observed that pupils there had better manners and more of what one mistress called "table talk".

All in all, we were heartened by

The choice is wide for those who look hard and travel

what we saw during two years of research. First-rate education is available and the choice is wide for those who are prepared to look hard and to travel. We did notice, however, that even the best schools lacked any spiritual element for the most part. There is religious instruction; there are assemblies, community work and so on; but it is a rare school that is capable of, or even interested in, giving any genuine spiritual guidance. Like the Prince of Wales, we thought we detected a deep need for it among the pupils.

Checklist for choosing the right school

ACTION

1. Send for the prospectus and any other literature available, and read it. This saves time on crucial but pedestrian matters such as the size of dormitories, when pupils are given temporary leave, of absence, and so on.

2. Make an appointment to see the head and be shown around the school. You may find you are fobbed off with open days, registrars and so forth. For big schools with large numbers of applicants, this is an understandable way to start. It is, however, time-consuming for you: you have to meet the head (and/or housemistress/master) at some point; no amount of wonderful buildings make up for an inadequate head.

3. On the day of your visit, arrive at the school early and look around. Approach children and staff and ask them anything. It's amazing how informative their replies can be.

ASK THE HEAD

- 1. What is the size of the sixth form? This is an indication of the academic strength of the school.
2. What are results like? (NB: It is best to work your way up to this as it tends to stir up head teachers. Monitor the speed of producing the results and/or reasons for not producing them. Schools of "mixed ability" often feel, with reason, that the school will be unfairly judged by apparent weakness of results. However, you need to know: (a) how "mixed" the school is and (b) which the weak departments are. Beware of statistics: "Hundred per cent pass rate in geography" could mean that they have one keen pupil whose father happens to be a professor of geography at a nearby university. You need to know: (a) the number of candidates sitting the exams; (b) the number of subjects taken in all; (c) the number of passes, split into grades.
3. How do they monitor progress? School reports? Points systems? What are the incentives?
4. What is the size of classes (biggest and smallest)? What is the ratio of full-time teaching staff to pupils? How many part-timers are there?
5. What is the turnover of staff, especially in mathematics and English?
6. Computers: do they teach programming or hands-on? Teaching specific programmes can be an obsolete idea.
7. Which exam boards are taken (these should be in the prospectus; Oxford and Cambridge Joint are considered to be the toughest)?
8. What is the size of the library budget? What arrangements are there for obtaining new books/papers?
9. What are the procedures for getting into pupils? How also be in the prospectus. If the school sets its own examination, ask to see old

Here is a list of guidelines we drew up as we went around. Obviously, not all are applicable to every school. Ask even half of these questions and you will probably never be invited back again, but it does no harm to take them along for prompting.

- 9. Papers: How are pupils selected?
10. What is the religion? Is there any religious teaching?
11. What major projects are on the go? Does the school offer special help to slow learners?
12. What was the effect of the teachers' strike?
13. Can they give you a breakdown of results achieved by boys and girls in boys' schools with girls in the sixth form? (NB: You'll be lucky to get this.)
14. How many pupils leave after O level? How many are imported into the sixth from outside?
15. What is the pressure of work? Amount of work? Homework? Streaming? Setting?
16. Who are the pupils and where do they come from (both geographically and socially)? How many expatriate children are there? How many non-British children and, in particular, how many non-British children whose first language is not English are there? Too many of the latter can grind teaching to a halt: very few schools can afford to cater for them separately, though the Inner London Education Authority does its best. How many are the children of old boys/girls? Are there any famous old boys/girls (this can be interesting)?
17. Where - preferably in great detail - do pupils go when they leave? The school magazine often supplies this information. Is there careers advice? Ask for a list of staff and their qualifications if this is not given automatically.
18. What scholarships are available - and won? What bursaries and provisions are there for helping out with fees? Do they offer assisted places?
19. The cost: that is, fees plus real cost, the size of the bill. What's extra (usually in prospectus)? (NB: State schools often ask for large sums in extras.)
20. Are there any appeals going on?
21. Are games compulsory? Sports on offer and their results should be in the school magazine.
22. What extras are on offer? Can they really deliver? A small school offering dozens of extras is probably doing none of them well. How many pupils learn a musical instrument (and for how long)?
23. Is there a Combined Cadet Force? Is it compulsory? Are there alternatives?
24. Who owns the school? If it is privately owned, are there any plans for a change of ownership?
25. What is the head trying to achieve in the school? What does he/she regard as most important? What is his/her history? Achievements? Education? When does he/she plan to retire? Is he/she planning to move on they'll tell you this, but ask anyway? Is the head married?
26. What is his/her attitude to discipline? Drugs? Sex? Bullying? Alcohol? Homosexuality? Stealing? Breaking the school rules? Corporal and/or other punishments? Ask for a copy of the school rules (this can be illuminating). How many people have been expelled/asked to leave in this past two years? This should pinpoint major problems.
27. What are the present numbers in school and its capacity? What is the size of the school? Acreage?
28. What is the structure of school houses? Do they have prefects? Are there levels

ASK THE PUPILS

- 29. Does the school feel responsible for pupils once they are accepted or will it encourage mistakes or slow learners to leave?
30. How much pocket money is allowed? One head we spoke to called pocket money "the bane of the public school system".
31. In boarding schools, how accessible are pupils by telephone?
32. What is the temperature of the school in winter (this question particularly for Scottish schools)?
33. What is the pastoral care like (this should be in prospectus)? Supervision at break? On school outings? At lunch? Shops? In case of illness? Is there a second-hand shop? Provision for transporting children?
34. Who would not be happy at this school?
35. What are the other schools in the area? Schools

ASK THE PUPILS

- 1. What is the food like?
2. What is the matron like?
3. Which members of staff do they like best?
4. Which subjects do they like most?
5. What don't they like about the school?

TOMORROW

The top 20 boys' schools

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1072

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. The above (5), 4. Grappling iron (7), 8. Queen bee's mate (5), 9. Having veins (7), 10. Foreign car (8), 11. Meal food list (4), 13. Horse: fish creature (11), 17. Dull pain (4), 18. Expl (it) (8), 21. Italian children (7), 22. Machine shaft (5), 23. Sure (7), 24. Each one (5), 7. Birthmark (4), 12. Become too thin (8), 16. Vitamin C deficiency disease (6), 14. Cruel (7), 19. Yarn filament (5), 20. Short skirt (4).

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Who... Where... How to his... B... Various vertical text and graphics on the right edge of the page.

Who is a girl's best friend?



Despite all the attention paid to sexual relationships, chums can last longer than lovers. Libby Purves begins a three-part series examining every aspect of friendship with a look at the bonds between women — and why so many men find them unsettling

I think what I like best about having women friends is the subtle female tolerance of others' foibles. When a woman accepts you, she accepts the lot. It drives men mad. "What can you see in that morose?" they cry. "You have nothing in common."

which sex played no part whatsoever. A subtler libel is the idea of "all-girls-together". Girls together, as every macho chap knows, do a lot of giggling. They swap make-up. They discuss nights. If they have children, they talk exclusively about after-births and Tupperware. And — most important of all — they will turn ferociously against each other if there is any question of rivalry over man. If a man asks one of the girls out, or a husband has got a cold at home, she naturally breaks her appointment with the others. The "all-girls-together" theory sees women's gatherings as a way of marking time, and letting off steam, when the almighty Men are not around. Either that, or they are plotting some mischief.

Or again, I am very fond of several Perfect Wives. I think they are doormats, they probably think me a shocking slut. And one of my most valued friends is an elderly woman who can see no sense in anything I do or write, but would never deny me sherry or shelter. I would be far poorer without them. I think the roots of female friendship lie in that much derided institution, the schoolgirl pash. I have always considered it a great piece of luck to have spent some formative years in a convent boarding-school. After all, I grew up with three brothers, went to a male-swamped university, then worked for a decade among men; making friends with the male sex has never seemed very difficult. It was left to those brief years in a female ghetto to provide the missing sections in the jigsaw of human love: they taught me to be friends with women, I would have hated to miss that chance.

The third misconception about female friendship is the fault of the feminist movement. They would like us to believe that Women (or Wimmen) who meet together are celebrating some ancient matriarchal rite: they are intimate, powerful, totally honest and open. They raise one another's consciousness. They revile the phallics. They fertilize pot-plants with menstrual blood, practice white magic, and sing Greenham Common songs. A few women of course actually do all these things, to the terror and fury of the public schoolboys on *Private Eye* and the *Spectator*, who see the future supply of clean collars and rice-pudding drying off if this is allowed to continue; but there are not many.

And I might have missed it. Some women claim to prefer men's company, and actually despise the idea of friendship with their own sex. We all know the girl whose eyes swirl round the room while you talk to her, hoping that a chap will come to the rescue. I suppose that this is partly because so many men despise, patronize or wilfully misunderstand female friendship; men's women pick up the attitude. Feminists would say it is because men feel "threatened" by female alliances; I do not subscribe to the conspiracy theory of male oppression, but considering some of the things men say about women's friendships, frankly, they deserve to be threatened. We have been libelled.

So there we are, pigeonholed: Lesbians, giggling girls, or Leticia witches. Either that or we are supposed to be behaving like those terrible women in modern American novels, swearing our heads off and detailing our men's sexual inadequacies. No wonder the poor saps feel threatened. But they need not: the truth is simpler and more pleasant than any of this.

The most obvious libel is "Lesbian". Even in an age of sexual bravado, it is not difficult to wreck a woman's self-respect with this sneer. Plenty of devoted old spinsters have lived and died together without it once crossing their mind to kiss; plenty of shy schoolgirls have had passionate friendships in

Women's friendship is just like men's friendship, only perhaps a bit less inhibited and more tolerant. I know and love a good deal of many women, and can say with my hand on my heart that I have never gone to bed with one, rarely discussed either Tupperware or moisturizer, never heard or recounted one single private sexual detail, never called anyone "sister", embarrassed a postulant, or laid a plot. I have, admittedly, giggled; I may have borrowed a scarf or two; but otherwise sober affection, mutual support and good jokes have predominated.



High jinks: Libby Purves (left) with her old friend Jenny during a university production of "Hotel Paradiso"

Once a man did come between me and a friend — there was a divorce, a betrayal, infidelity and anger — but it so happened that the friendship outlasted the love affair. Ten years on, neither of us has seen the disputed man for years, but we still count ourselves as friends. I think I knew all the time that Beattie was worth more than Benjamin, and so she was, and is.

School friendships were intense and enclosed. In one way that was their weakness; but the enclosure, at least, enabled us to concentrate on our friends. The root of all wisdom, as Waugh said in *Brideshead*, is to know and love another human being. One of the saddest sights of our time is the teenage girl from an unhappy home who, the agencies tell us, deliberately gets pregnant in order to force someone to love her; where are her girlfriends?

to her by fascination at the sort of psychology which could lead a girl to put on full make-up merely to eat cornflakes with 200 other women at eight in the morning. She, in turn, could not believe anyone would voluntarily wear corduroy trousers and a home-embroidered poncho made out of an old cot-blanket.

There is an unflattering myth that women do not like other women who are prettier than them. Rubbish. I am no beauty, but several of my favourite friends are. I was, and am, extremely fond of a ravishingly elegant creature I first met over college breakfast. I was first drawn

to her by fascination at the sort of psychology which could lead a girl to put on full make-up merely to eat cornflakes with 200 other women at eight in the morning. She, in turn, could not believe anyone would voluntarily wear corduroy trousers and a home-embroidered poncho made out of an old cot-blanket.

Later, her sex-life was tumultuous, mine was not yet the frankness between us was always comfortable. I would tell her to "take that damn silly new-laid look off her face" at breakfast, and she would occasionally plead with me on such lines as "Look, I know you don't bother now, but you might go in for grooming one day, so for heaven's sake at least use a moisture cream. Then if you change your mind your skin will have survived." So I did, and I still do.

One derives a lot of strength from a shared history like that.

Intense school and college friendships turn into the dilute associations of adult life; you make some new friends for dull practical reasons, because they are your husband's best mate's wife, or sit at the next typewriter, or have children at the same school. Yet whenever the real spark of friendship kindles, all the old magic returns: that sense of comfortable companionship, shared secret anarchy, and above all tolerance.

Next time the cry goes up of "What do you see in her?", I shall proudly quote Yeats: "Think where man's glory most begins and ends and say my glory was, I had such friends."

WEDNESDAY

Male friendship: mates and myths

Josephine Fairley

Where there's a wife there's a woman

"She spoke very softly and made oblique suggestions and references to what she wanted without asking for anything. It's not what you think. What the lady wanted was not a diamond-studded apple-chain, or a mews house in Belgravia, but the right to be the official manufacturer's US representative for Floramita, a proprietary process that transferred designs on to ceramics. Being soft-spoken and taking a long time to get down to brass tacks are just two of the tips given by Mariene L. Rossmann in her book, *The International Businesswoman* (published by Praeger, £9.95).

woman being an expression of "a male boss's own sexist attitudes" — it is clear that women entering the international arena could hardly make a worse mess of trading than men have. For instance, General Motors test-marketed its Chevrolet Nova car in Latin America — unaware that *no* means "it doesn't go" in Spanish — and Pillsbury tried to export its Jolly Green Giant products to Saudi Arabia, even though the label was translated literally as the "intimidating green ogre". I can't help thinking that women might have spotted these blunders in time. I agree with Ms Rossmann when she says that, when working abroad, it is a good idea to invent a husband. This is becoming easier to do all the time as spouses are, increasingly, not expected to



PENNY PERRICK

travel with their working partner. Womenly wiles seem to go down a treat when it comes to persuading a foreign client to sign on the dotted line. "In many instances, I asked for their 'expert' opinion even when I knew the answer," Rossmann says. "It was a constructive way of showing my involvement with them rather than just with the procedures at hand."

It is also the lot of the international businesswoman to drink gallons of strong coffee in Brazil (where they drink an awful lot of coffee), to go in for "Koran chic" (a long dress) in Saudi Arabia and to order Scotch over lunch in the Dominican Republic, although she shouldn't actually raise the glass to her lips if strong liquor at mid-day takes her mind off work. I was astonished to learn that only 20 years ago, lone American or British women in Spain would prop a replica of their national flag on their restaurant table to indicate that they weren't prostitutes. You would have

thought that the locals would have jumped to the conclusion that they were intensely patriotic prostitutes. These days, sexual harassment is on the decline although, should you require some, Ms Rossmann advises against encounters with clients, colleagues and men in bars. Instead, she suggests using your business card as an instrument of advanced flirtation. "If you meet an interesting man, you can offer your card and ask for his."

Could this dashing around playing card games affect your home life? It certainly could. Some advice from the author: "If your boyfriend over-reacts to your travelling, tell him that you will be thinking of when you return during all of your waking moments." Ms Rossmann suggests that before you agree to any long-term relocation, you should find out whether your company will help your husband get a work permit. She is optimistic about this, which is good news for the wives of international businessmen. After years of trailing the globe, doing nothing more exciting than supervising the packings-cases, they may now expect to have their career needs catered for by their husbands' firms — or prove a case of wilful sexual discrimination.

A day's shopping on the Continent for just five pounds... that's the offer starting today for Times readers. What's in store? Robin Young reports on hypermarkets

A continental shopping trip for just £5

For most day-trippers to the Continent, the chief object of the expedition is a bargain-hunt around the hypermarket. Even now that the pound is worth an eighth less in France than it was a year ago (it is even sicker in Belgium) it is still well worth shopping in the Channel ports. The wine and beer alone, bought at Continental prices, will save the day-trip fare. The cheapest wines are half the British price and beers on average are about a third cheaper. Other obvious moneysavers include coffee beans (a third off), Dijon mustard (save about a quarter), glasses, mineral water and olive oil (little more than half the British price).

Other good buys in the food department are condensed soups (more interesting and flavoursome than British varieties); pure fruit jams and jellies; large and silver sardines; herbs, spices and dried fruit. Other big store departments worth examination are children's clothes (attractive styles and not dear); toys; perfumery and toiletries; women's fashions and accessories, of course, but most notably pure silk underwear (a third off again), costume jewellery, make-up bags, handbags and well-designed umbrellas, and linens.



How to take our special offer

Lunch in the shadow of Calais's splendid rococo town hall, choosing cheese from the counter of Philippe Olivier, Boulogne's *meat-frogger*, watching on the quayside at Ostend, or strolling in the medieval heauty of Bruges...any one of these could be yours for only £5. This autumn, in conjunction with Townsend Thoresen, *The Times* is offering its readers away-days to France and Belgium for ridiculously low prices. From Monday October 20 until Sunday November 30 you can take a day trip from Dover to Calais, Boulogne, Ostend or Zeebrugge (or from Felixstowe to Zeebrugge) for £5 each plus another £5 for your car, bowler, if four or more of you travel together in a single car, the car goes free — so the cost of a trip for four and a car is just £20. Townsend Thoresen are not affected by industrial action on ferry services. The timing is perfect for anyone wanting to buy something special for Christmas. Calais, Boulogne and Ostend, of course, all have hypermarkets close by and Bruges, within easy reach of Zeebrugge, is an excellent shopping centre. If thoughts of Christmas appear painfully premature, then our offer is simply an interesting and inexpensive autumn diversion: all four ports pride themselves in interesting sights and enticing menus. Boulogne, for instance, has some of the best food shops in France, a thriving Saturday market and a splendid "old town". Calais, an ancient lace centre, is rich in architecture and harbour-life. Ostend is a busy fishing port. Zeebrugge is an interesting harbour and town near to Bruges which is probably the best preserved medieval city in northern Europe. A booking request form plus sailing details will appear in Thursday's *Times*. In addition, you will require three vouchers per booking. The first voucher appears today, followed by further vouchers tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday.

THE TIMES special offer in association with TOWNSEND THORESEN

How to tell a gentleman on his way to the top. By his Cheaneys. Send for our free 1986 colour brochure and take a look at the new centenary collection. CHEANEY

Yes, I'm a masochist TALKBACK Name and address supplied. Having read the article on women's masochism by Dr Paula Caplan (Monday Page, September 29) and the response by Barbara Toner, I realized that until I had a child, I would have agreed with Ms Toner. However, I seem to have entered the world of women's masochism, with a vengeance. Now that I have decided to take on a less-demanding part-time job in order to be able to spend more time with my daughter, and also to accommodate my husband's ever more demanding job, I find that I am still to blame for hindering my career prospects — or wanting to work at all. Before starting a family, I saw our partnership continu-

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THE TIMES DIARY

Almost free speech

Norman Tebbit's constituency party has launched an embarrassing attack on the way the Tory party runs its annual conference...

Banners ban

For the first time in four years there will be no CND representative at the Tory conference...

Joanaya, southern Lebanon From almost any part of Joanaya you can see the tricolour floating in the warm breeze above the new headquarters of the UN's French battalion...

Trespass

Yet another gaffe from Alan Clark, the loose-tongued trade minister of "Bongo-Bongo Land" fame...

Loyalty

Among those fulminating loudly against public schools at Blackpool last week was Chris Danes, of West Dorset Labour Party...

BARRY FANTONI



Something old

St Bride's Church in Fleet Street is staging the ultimate in traditionalist one-upmanship: four scripture readings from the Tyndale Bible...

Ropot

Professor Richard Gregory has announced a breakthrough in the field of artificial intelligence: a robot that can play snooker...

Prior: telling all too soon

by David Howell

Jim Prior is an amiable man with a nice sense of humour. In the 1970s I worked with him on an economic policy for the next Conservative government...

However, cutting edge is not everything. A government needs healers as well as cutters. It is regrettable that the Conservative leadership at the moment excludes such men of enormous experience...

I am all for radical Conservative vigour but I cannot see why there has to be such an almost childish pattern of being "in" or "out" in the Tory's Conservative politics...

That said, it puzzles me why Prior feels he needs to let off steam so soon after leaving office...

Ireland experiences would have been invaluable; one putting Ted Heath in a fairer light - long overdue - would have been fascinating...

All these things find a place in A Balance of Power but they are not the centrepiece. That position is occupied by a full-blown assault by Prior on his former cabinet colleagues...

Quite apart from that, a proper memoir about the 1979-83 government is hopelessly premature. The perspective at this point blank range is bound to be wrong...

not between Keynesians and monetarists but between those "with an irresistible urge to turn the economic dials" (I quote Milton Friedman) and those who have a more modest view of what can be achieved in managing a medium sized open economy...

The Prior I like is the one who wanted to get on with better youth training and educational development (he initiated the Youth Training Scheme)...

The Prior who saddens me is the one who decided to produce this very premature and partial account of the early 1980s...

count of the early 1980s: who oversimplifies the complexity of the problems and choices we faced, not least in the energy sector...

For commentators to put together and publish their various interpretations of what has misleadingly been described as "the Thatcher experiment" is fair enough...

I suppose one answer to the question of why this book was written is that Jim Prior probably felt that his own contribution in government was being distorted...

That is certainly hard to bear. But the best riposte in the short term is firmly to refute the nastier and wilder claims and to carry on with the development of ideas which one believes to be right...

Even the liberty, equality and fraternity of the French Republic cannot compete with the nascent Islamic republic whose ghostly birth can already be observed in southern Lebanon...

Indeed, the much-publicized arrival of Israeli troop reinforcements on the international frontier, and inside their occupation zone to Lebanon, may have the opposite effect to that intended...

To the days of the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, such ruthless scorched-earth tactics might have worked. But although the South Lebanon Army militia and the Israelis have already wreaked havoc with their artillery on villages such as Yater...

Many UN officers would like to see the French quietly withdrawn. Amid the crisis in southern Lebanon, the presence of an army with so colonial a history in Lebanon, representatives of a nation that has been openly selling sophisticated weapons to Iran's enemy in the Gulf war, is a positive danger to the UN's existence here...

But ultimately, the growing anger and frustration among the Shias will decide the fateful days ahead. The Israelis say they will not abandon their occupation zone - or "security zone" as they insist on calling it - even though, in reality, it provides hardly any security either to the Lebanese who live in it or to the Israelis of Galilee who still come under Katyusha rocket attack...

The trouble is that it may owe too late even to consider an Israeli withdrawal to the international frontier. If the UN were to complete its mandate and patrol all of southern Lebanon down to the border, it would need exceptional powers and considerable reinforcement...

Robert Fisk reports on the Islamic hardline pressures that could leave Israel exposed

Will the UN be forced out of Lebanon?



Enemies all around. French para in a skirmish with Shia gunmen

villages where Shia families live crowded into little breeze-block huts. In Marrakeh and Bourj Qalouyeh, and in a whole series of hamlets along the ridges above the dry, stony wastelands of Tyre, there are people who feel they would have little to lose from the departure of the UN. It was here that resistance to the Israelis was fiercest during their occupation of 1984-85...

The history of the Iranian revolution is embedded in these mean streets. For in the time of the Shah it was to the mosques east of Tyre that the Iranian opposition leaders - Ayatollah Beheshti, Abolhassan Bani Sadr and a host of others - came to communicate with the exiled Khomeini through the Amal leader, Imam Moussa Sadr, himself an Iranian...

In the weathered Shia villages to the south, radical sentiments have met with less enthusiasm. In Qana and Tibnin, for example, even in Joanaya, money has flowed in from Lebanese expatriates who made their fortunes in Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Nigeria. Smart new housing complexes and villas are being built here by families who outwardly tolerate Islamic dress and the local ban on alcohol but who have nothing to gain from Hezbollah fundamentalism...

Getting into bed with hypocrisy

Sex and politics were deemed to be "not nice" topics of conversation in mixed company at Victorian dinner tables...

Consider, for a moment, the hypocrisy that lies behind this movement, and in particular the role that Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, has played. He is trying to prevent a right-wing revolt on the subject of sex education by appearing an even more zealous guardian of propriety than Peter Bruinvels...

The book was spotted earlier this year on an ILEA reading list, and was subsequently hastily removed and publicly banned by the Labour leadership from the open shelves. The story was dead. However, as a result of Baker's recycling exercise, there can be no doubt that more young children have seen the offending photograph (two dishy young men sharing breakfast in bed with a little girl) than would otherwise have been the case...

Who knows how many little girls have been given the idea that living with Daddy and his lover might be quite fun? To The Sunday Times the reproduced photograph shared a page (by accident) with a spoof comic strip advertising a new travel card issued by the National Bus Company...

But why, in a society awash with articles, stories, photographs, quizzes, agony columns, gossip columns and sensational revelations on the subject of sex, all of it accessible to children, is there such hysteria at the thought that teachers might say something to them on the subject as well? Now I think it is perfectly fair to say that some of the sillier left-wing education authorities have asked for it. They sometimes talk as if it is their mission in life to brainwash every man, woman and child who sets foot in a public institution under their control...

On neither side of this debate is there much contact with the reality of what is happening in the great majority of sex education lessons. Politicians and journalists moreover... Miles Kington

Don't hang up, have a flutter

Our traditional red phoneboxes are being sold abroad by British Telecom, not for use as phoneboxes but as small greenhouses, shower units, changing cubicles, etc. However, letters from some of my older readers suggest that this is not the first time phoneboxes have shown their versatility...

At the end of the war, I lived near a Catholic church in London which had been badly bombed. The priest sensibly decided that the best place to take confession was in two phoneboxes just outside the church, so he would go into one and his parishioner would go into the other and ring him up, and there they would sit, the two of them, chatting away. I remember the priest telling me once that he had taken the precaution of blessing both the telephones and sprinkling them with holy water, but it didn't seem to make much difference to the amount of wrong numbers he got. One fellow, I remember, was some kind of French bookmaker who rang him up by mistake. They had quite a talk, he and the priest, as a result of which the betting man vowed he would never get involved in gambling again...

Baker makes Parent Power the theme

No minister has a harder task in Bournemouth this week than Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary. Education, an issue that can lose elections even if it cannot win them, has been at the top of the political agenda since the teachers' strike began. At the last election, polls showed the Tories as the party held to have the best education policies. Now the voters prefer Labour's approach by a margin of 3 to 2...

The Department of Education and Science does not actually run Britain's education system. It is mostly funded by local authorities; and control is a matter of somewhat foggy arrangements between local education authorities, teachers and school governors. And there is a Tory faction fight over what to do with that control. The consolidators want to run the existing system better by exerting a greater measure of central control. Patten in his time proposed funding more education with specific grants for particular purposes, such as the in-service training of teachers...

As a halfway stage the radicals would settle for the revival of direct-grant grammar schools. And they have lately been flexing their muscles over the Education Bill that Baker inherited from Sir Keith, stiffening it with extra clauses to prevent political bias in teaching, to ensure police access to schools and to force the university authorities to maintain freedom of speech on campuses. In fact the lines between consolidators and radicals are now blurring. The Prime Minister would like a core syllabus as well as a core curriculum, a clearly centralised move. The impeccably dry Treasury would like more central funding to keep a tighter hand on teachers' pay. The consolidators, on the other hand, have come to favour reforms such as open enrolment and per capita funding of schools which meet the radical demand for parental choice and variety of provision. Baker himself, who has already transformed the mood of the educational world with judicious handouts to the polytechnics and GCSE exam preparations, is steering a clever middle course by making more money dependent upon reforms at the chalk-face. He will give nothing on teachers' pay until the unions deliver on performance assessment, on co-operation guarantees and on covering for absence. He has pleased the radicals by reopening the question of student loans to help finance higher education. And he will please them further this week by announcing the setting up of 20 centrally-funded technical schools in inner cities with a heavy vocational emphasis, the first big breach in the comprehensive principle for 20 years. Baker will not announce tomorrow the government's conversion to vouchers. But he will adopt some of the radicals' themes. In a key passage, he will insist that education can no longer be organised for the convenience of the academics, administrators and teachers' unions and must be shaped instead by what is good for the individual child and meets parents' aspirations. He will make it clear that in the struggle over who runs the schools, the government, which is already increasing the number of parent governors, intends to tilt the balance still further from the producers to the consumers of education. He and Mrs Thatcher have agreed that the Conservative approach to education in the next election will be: Vote Tory for Parent Power.

Robin Oakley Political Editor

SKIING/1

FOCUS

A guide to the piste that suits you best

Deciding where to ski becomes more difficult by the season. The sport is now such big business that keeping up with new facilities, runs opened and co-operating agreements between lift companies offering passes to ski ever more extensive areas, presents problems even for the experts.

These include the compilers of guide books, specialist magazines and the Ski Club of Great Britain. The best of the guide books by far is *The Good Skiing Guide*, published by the Consumers Association and Hodder & Stoughton.

I have found it to the point on resorts I already know, and very useful when visiting new areas.

The resorts suggested below are places I have spent time skiing in. Others may be equally good for the purposes described, and my selection does no more than illustrate the points made.

Wide choice for newcomers

More than 150,000 Britons are expected to take their first ski holiday during the coming season which will last, in most places, from Christmas to Easter. About half will be schoolchildren-travelling with their peers, but of the rest, the statistics of past years show that more than 50 per cent will become regular skiers.

The newcomer has the widest choice of places to ski because almost all resorts claim to cater adequately for beginners. This is far short of true, although the best choice

is not, for once, necessarily the dearest. Priorities to shuffle include the following: Avoid long walks in ski boots, which are designed for skiing, not walking, and for the beginner can be a real pain. Choose a resort with lockers for boots and skis at a lift station that connects with the ski school assembly point such as Courmayeur in Italy.

Choose a purpose-built ski resort with gentle ski runs from your apartment or hotel door to a lift - say Les Arcs, Flacois, or Courchevel in France.

Choose a hotel or apartment close to a lift serving the ski school area - this is the choice in real villages tucked in valleys such as Lech or Mayrhofen in Austria.

Avoid the Christmas and Easter crowds and high-season prices everywhere. Choose late February or early March for the greatest likelihood of good weather and good snow. Beginners' classes, which involve more hanging-about waiting for the fallen and the timid than intermediate groups, can be a chilly business in January blizzards. Avoid instructors with a minimal command of English and those whose interest extends no further than the prettiest girl in the class.

Choose a resort with a well-regarded ski school - say Seefeld or Mayrhofen in Austria. None of the skiing guide-books is especially helpful on this subject because most of the writers are long out of ski school. The commendation of several brochures is an indication that earlier holiday-makers have been satisfied. Never be afraid to change classes. Choose two weeks in a reasonably-priced resort instead of one week somewhere more glamorous - unless of course it is the glitter not the sport that is the main attraction.

Make room for experts

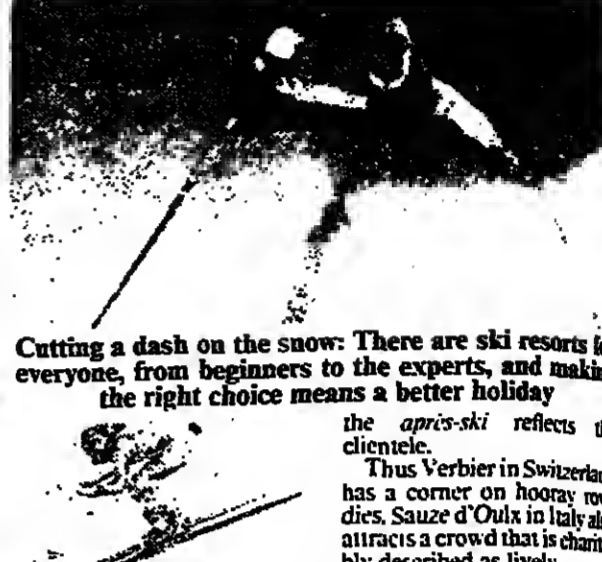
There are expert skiers and skiers who think they are experts. The popularity of skiing holidays is driving the experts right off the crowded pistes into the powder. Bad light finds them skiing through the trees, late-season sunshine sees them far away from lifts and crowds, touring the mountains on skis and sleeping in refuges and mountain huts.

Avoid convenience in the search for excellence, which means good snow and tough skiing. Choose resorts with a tradition of mountain guiding - as often as not based on mountaineering in summer and ski-touring in winter - say Zermatt and Verbier in Switzerland, Chamooix and Argentiere in France, and St Anton in Austria.

or an unskied tract of virgin snow. Avoid resorts with too limited a selection of runs for the energetic. Why go up and down one or two runs all day long when you could be skiing somewhere different every time?

Best way for the moderate

Intermediate skiers are in the majority. They are quickly bored on easy runs marked green on the resort maps and often frightened on difficult runs marked black. Intermediate skiers spend most of their time on blue and red runs which have been groomed by piste machines to flatter their moderate skills. Nothing makes an intermediate feel better than making a competent job of a black run



Cutting a dash on the snow: There are ski resorts for everyone, from beginners to the experts, and making the right choice means a better holiday

A night-life for everyone

Après-ski, nightlife by another name, takes many forms, from traditionally beery Alpine jollity with grown men in short leather shorts singing to accordion music almost everywhere in Austria, to chic discos and restaurants in places like Courchevel in France.

In the resorts most heavily patronized by British skiers,

the après-ski reflects the clientele.

Thus Verbier in Switzerland has a corner on hokey rowdies. Sauze d'Oulx in Italy also attracts a crowd that is characteristically described as lively.

Towns and little villages with permanent resident populations offer some of the best bars and restaurants. Davos in Switzerland, Lech in Austria, and their like attract a well-heeled, and not particularly young crowd.

Old name resorts such as Gstaad and St Moritz in Switzerland, and Innsbruck in Austria, draw more Americans than the French or Italian resorts.

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

Places for mixed parties

Mixed parties of skiers of different grades and, perhaps, non-skiers, must balance an even greater number of priorities. Avoid the many modern French resorts which do not have the little village atmosphere.

Choose for intermediate, expert skiers and non-skiers resorts with good skiing, good village atmosphere, enjoyable walking or alternative activities. Top names such as Zermatt are ideal.

For mixed parties with less-exacting skiing demands, the traditional posing resorts have

plenty to offer at a price: Gstaad and St Moritz in Switzerland, and Mégeve in France.

Avoid resorts where it is difficult for mixed parties to meet for lunch.

Skiers will not want to come off the mountain when skiing conditions to the village are poor in late season or bad-snow years.

Choose resorts where skiers of different grades and non-skiers can easily and enjoyably meet for lunch in mountain restaurants.

Look for mountain railways, cable cars and closed gondolas that will take the non-skiers up for lunch, as at Zermatt and Wengen in Switzerland, at Méribel and Courchevel in France, and at Courmayeur in Italy.

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Skiers like to dine out on stories of black runs, raging blizzards and the avalanche that got away, but they are not renowned for their toleration of hardship.

So it is with equipment. The aim is to snap it on to your feet, point it downhill and forget about it — but rarely is it that simple.

Fortunately for the unfit, skiing is not an activity of great exertion, since gravity provides the impetus. The plastic boot revolution and the softening of skis in the early 1970s suddenly made equipment far less demanding to control.

Now an almost effortless movement of the ankle and foot, transmitted through the boot, is enough to tilt the ski on to an edge. Its skidding or "carving" action steers the ski in a broad arc.

The glossy smooth exterior of a good ski disguises a highly sophisticated bonding of materials inside it, such as fibreglass, aluminium, foam plastic, wood (still commonly used) and even rubber.

Recent advances have included extremely strong fibres such as Kevlar and carbonfibre, and the moulding of a ski under vacuum (which the Austrian company Fischer has pioneered).

Not only does the ski have to provide the right steering properties, it has to resist repeated stress. Ideally every bump and trough in the snow has to be "swallowed" so that the ski remains in contact and the skier remains in control.

The few engineers in the world who fully understand that mysterious working of skis juggle with these components and objectives and occasionally make a breakthrough (the most significant was probably the successful transition from solid wood to metal-laminated wood in the 1950s).

The world's richest ski boot manufacturer, Georges Salomon, is investing millions of French francs in his quest to make a revolutionary ski and to make it cheaper than his Austrian and French competitors.

It will not be easy and his ski will have to be big

binding package. Your choice will be more limited but a saving of 10 per cent to 20 per cent off the combined price is normal. Good packages can be had for £120 upwards.

Shop now to get the benefits of discounts on last year's equipment. During this season and the next, equipment prices could rise 25 per cent while the fall in sterling has its effects.

Visit the Daily Mail Ski Show, Epsom, Surrey, from November 8 to 16. There is likely to be keen competition among stands this year. Alpine Sports, London's largest retailer, tells me that its warehouse is being cleared of deleted lines for its four-yearly "bargain stand" at the show.

If you're buying boots, take a good look at them from the show but buy them from a shop that employs expert boot fitters.

Buy a "rear-entry" boot for convenience — they are easier to put on and walk in — but make sure the boot has an excellent internal mechanism to close firmly around the foot.

Obtain a "comfort guarantee" on your boots. At worst you will then be able to return them paying only a rental charge if they're uncomfortable. For superior fit and comfort, ask shops about the detailed modifications which can now be made to a boot's shell and inners.

Keep your skis in perfect condition. The edges need sharpening every week and the bases must be waxed regularly.

David Goldsmith

The author is Equipment Editor of Ski Survey magazine

Shop around for the best equipment

from the wide selection available. Here are a few tips on how to narrow the choice and remember that a skier's priority should always be a first-class pair of boots:

- A set of skis, bindings, boots and poles costs between £150 and £600. At £150 to £200 it is better to continue renting skis and to concentrate your investment on a pair of boots costing £90 to £120. These provide better support and a closer fit than the cheap boots.
- Skis that offer the easiest and best performance across all types of snow are "sport" skis costing £150 to £210 a pair (plus £60 to £65 for a good pair of bindings). Some good skis at this price are Atomic Ovalon (£199), Fischer SC4 Vacuum (£180), Dynastar Omesoft K (£200), Lange KS Advantage (£180), K2 4500 (£199), Rossignol XP11 (£199) and Volk Renniger Comp (£209).
- If you intend to spend less than this on skis, buy a ski and



Good value for families: Tour operators now offer a wide range of holiday packages that cater for all tastes and pockets

Smoothest way to the slopes

Getting to the slopes is a fairly painless process for the majority of British skiers, for most of them go out on package tours. Just turn up at Gatwick, stick your skis on the trolleys provided, and the tour operator's representative will pass you like a parcel across Europe and up to your mountain resort.

But since skiing is a winter sport, all does not always go well. There are fogs and icy runways, aircraft are delayed, sudden blizzards or avalanches can block access roads to the resort, and transfer times from the airport to your holiday hotel or chalet can be long.

Four hours on the coach is fairly normal, even in France. But in Italy it will take six hours from Milan to Bormio, or even longer if your destination is Livigno, on the far side of the Sestrio pass — no wonder the children start to fret.

Checking the transfer time before you book is one way of avoiding this problem.

Not much can be done about the weather, but the risk of aircraft delays can be reduced by travelling outside the weekend, or at least not on Saturday when the crowds are thickest.

Ski Thomson offers Sunday and Wednesday departures.

Ski holiday operators are also making increasing use of provincial airports and Ski Thomson uses Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, East Midlands and Birmingham, as well as the ever-popular but tightly-packed Luton, Gatwick and Heathrow.

Using a local airport not only reduces the crowds, it may also cut down on travelling time from home, hotel overnights and parking fees.

In an attempt to take the sting out of any delay, most operators now offer some form of delay compensation or insurance, with meals at mealtimes, if the flight is late, and the right to cancel the holiday for a full refund if the delay exceeds 24 hours.

If you arrive on time at the other end, my main piece of advice is to always see that everyone, especially the children, visit the loo before boarding the coach — coaches sometimes run for hours without stopping.

Although most skiers travel out by air, a large number of holiday companies now offer a coach or car travel option, often at a much reduced price. Car or coach travel will appeal to those who love skiing but hate flying.

Price is the main attraction.

of car and coach travel. Thomson offers a week's skiing by car for as little as £22 each. This is for four and in the Pyrenees.

To give a more typical example, a week at Formigal in the Spanish Pyrenees costs from £145 by air in early February, but those who opt for the ski-drive and accommodation-only alternative can deduct £82 a head from this price, getting it down to £63.

Crystal Holidays has a supersnowcoach option which starts at £79, and claims its coach prices generally offer a reduction of about £40 off those for a similar holiday by air. It also gives a full seven days skiing and is particularly popular with families and young people where saving £40 a head can be useful.

Children seem to travel well by coach and drop off to sleep easily after an hour or two.

My tips for coach travel are: get a good night's sleep before you leave; have a small bag

with a few essentials, soap, towel, comb, slippers, paperbacks, to take on to the coach; and carry a certain amount of currency to pay for meals and snacks en route — no one will change a traveller's cheque at 3 o'clock in the morning.

One final method of getting there, which may appeal to the well-heeled skier, is on the Orient Express. This took us all the way from Victoria to Innsbruck last year, past all the ski resorts that line the Arberg pass.

The Orient Express can be booked through Crystal Holidays, at a supplement of £349. Ah well, there is always a snag, but enjoy your skiing, however you get to the slopes.

Rob Neillands

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THE ARTS

Labours of love

TELEVISION

The greatest love affair in the first part of Lovelace (BBC2) was the labour of its producer, narrator and writer, William Nicholson. Immaculately researched and filmed, and extremely watchable, it seemed more appropriate for an audience of young females than adults.

For the moment we discovered that Japanese parents are a trifle Victorian, so their cautiously deceitful children have to go to hotels; that American parents abdicate all responsibility; that Kenyan teenagers read Carroll-esque comics; and that in India affairs are out of the question and, therefore, mind.

The Secret Life of Paintings (BBC2) began in a locked room of the National Gallery with a mysteriously upturned commentary and a lot of Transylvanian mist. Once she had emerged from the cold ice, the presenter, Lady Wedgwood, turned out to be a knickerbockered combination of Edith Sitwell and Barbara Woodhouse.

Redbrick, Channel 4's answer to Queens, began its naturalistic soap about Newcastle University with the appointment of a new lecturer. The raw material would have made even Jean-Luc Godard blanch, but the producer, Stephen Garrett, dwelt on the grating channiness of academics with commendable cruelty.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Bernardo Bertolucci has gone to Peking's Forbidden City to make the most expensive independent film ever undertaken: Robert T. Grieves reports

The emperor stands up against commercialism

"Silenzio." The command echoes throughout the walled courtyard in front of the Palace of Peaceful Longevity in Peking's decayed Forbidden City. Almost at once the commotion caused by hundreds of Chinese and foreign tourists roped in at one side of the cobble-stoned expanse subsides.

It is an afternoon of brilliant sunlight and a piercingly blue sky. On a terrace of the Hall of Ultimate Grace, six of the more than 60 genuine Tibetan Buddhist lamas assembled near the hall stand before Cinecitta klieg-lights and reflectors. A recording of a Buddhist chant fills the air and the lamas on the terrace, decked out in authentic yellow head-dresses and dull red robes, begin chanting along with the music.

"Cui." The haunting chords cease, the crowd gets noisy again and Bernardo Bertolucci, sitting on a stool at the base of the terrace, confers with his cinematographer, Vittorio Storaro. For one moment in a small corner of the Forbidden City the year was not 1986 but 1908. The Empress Dowager Ci Xi had just died, a three-year-old child named Pu Yi was about to become the Emperor of China and the lamas were praying for his future success.

The Last Emperor traces the remarkable life of Pu Yi, from his brief reign as the last ruler of the Qing dynasty to his debut as Emperor of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo and subsequent imprisonment by Soviet

and Chinese authorities. Isolated for 10 years, Pu Yi on his release became a gardener in the Peking botanical gardens and died in 1967, at the height of China's Cultural Revolution.

To avoid the problems of costly overruns and Chinese bureaucracy that plagued the filming of Taipan, based on James Clavell's best-selling novel of the same name, The Last Emperor is being made in conjunction with China's Film Co-production Corporation and Beijing Film Studios. In addition, the production has retained Shirley Sun, a Chinese-American who made A Great Wall, now showing to packed houses in America, as a consultant. The Last Emperor is scheduled to be released in October 1987.

"This rivals the pyramids", Bertolucci says as he gazes at the Forbidden City's faded gates and palaces during a break in the shooting. "It is the Disneyland of China. Hollywood would not dare to make a set like this." Indeed, Peking is about as far as anyone is likely to get from either Hollywood or Pinewood. Six weeks into the film's 14-week shooting-schedule in China (including locations in Peking, Dalian, Shenyang and Changchun), nearly everyone connected with the film is tired. Essential materials for the sets cannot always be found. The city, bereft of night-life, is declared boring. And the Chinese prove difficult to work with.

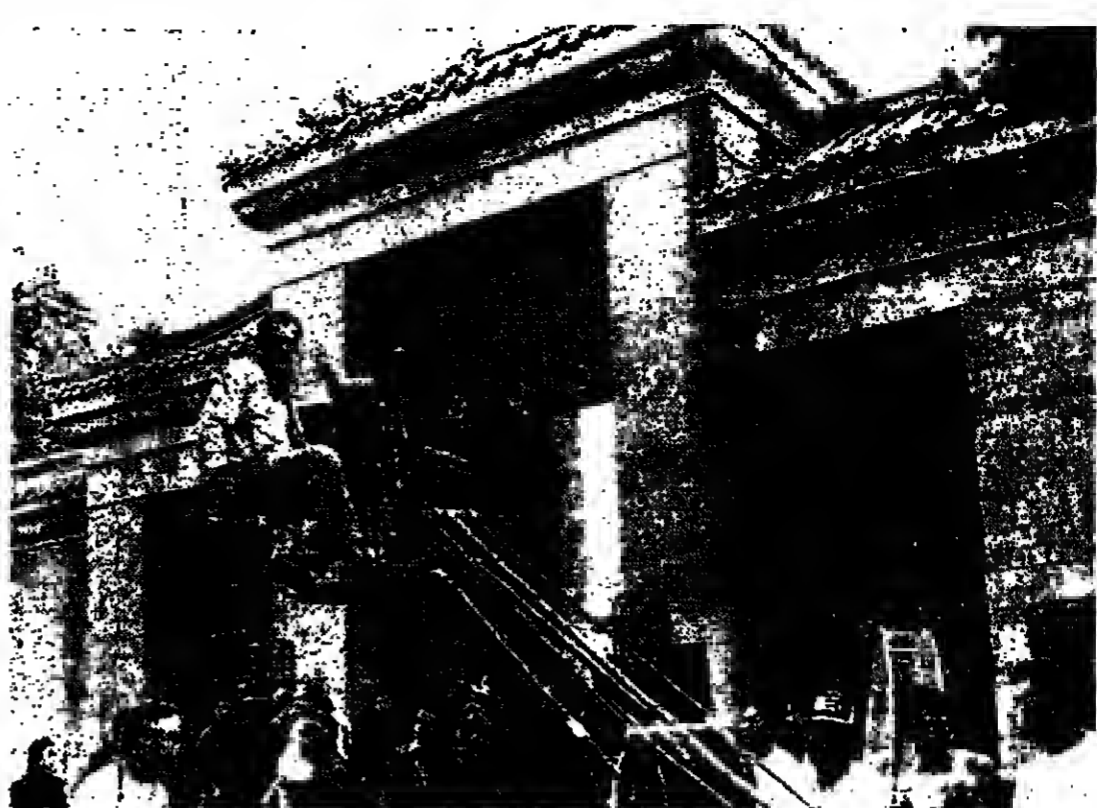
"They think we talk too fast and are madmen", says Serena Cane-

vari, a production assistant. "Schedules are not always kept and doors are sometimes locked when they should be open." Despite such difficulties, China and the quality of the project have engendered a great deal of enthusiasm among the members of the crew. From Bertolucci down to the imported Italian chef who prepares daily lunches of pasta and hamburgers, The Last Emperor has become not so much a movie as a mission to prove that an epic film with a serious theme can be just as profitable as Rambo or The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

For Storaro, who is now 46, The Last Emperor is his twenty-seventh film, but an important one nonetheless. "This is a film for big movie theatres, an epic", says the cinematographer. "Technically, video will soon replace film in the making of small, intimate movies that can be shown at home. But for pictures like this people will still want to come to the theatre."

The Last Emperor could well mark the apotheosis of Bertolucci, who at 45 already ranks as one of the world's major directors on the strength of The Conformist, Last Tango in Paris, 1900 and other films. At \$22.5 million, the movie is the biggest independent film production ever undertaken and, if successful, will free Bertolucci from what he regards as the crass commercialism that has overtaken Hollywood.

During the two years that he researched the movie by travelling to China, Bertolucci was captured



"This rivals the pyramids... Hollywood would not dare to make a set like this": Bertolucci in action

by the mystique that still surrounds the People's Republic. "Walking along the Bund in Shanghai at seven o'clock one evening", he says, "I felt the excitement of being the only white person in the street among thousands of Chinese: the same excitement that westerners here in the 19th century must have felt." Translating that excitement to the film is, of course, more difficult.

Outwardly, Bertolucci appears calm as he works in the Forbidden City, but the appearance is deceptive. "I'm an actor. If only you knew what agony and ecstasy I am going through. The calm is my British side; I'm a quarter Irish." Still, he is quite optimistic. "The pirate ship is sailing through the Yellow Sea, and every day we have a hurricane that comes, creates a storm, and leaves", he says, referring to The Last Emperor. "After-

wards, the skies are then sunny." Bertolucci's style of film-making is decidedly improvisational: "I have a written script and I do one shot. Then I might have an inspiration for another shot, building on the first. Of course, the bigger the movie the more difficult this becomes. On this film I have the weight of millions and millions of dollars on me."

For Jeremy Thomas, The Last Emperor's 37-year-old producer, making magic realism in China also means spending money - roughly \$50,000 a day. Thomas raised the necessary capital from five sources in the City: Hill Samuel & Co, Standard Chartered Bank, Pierson, Helder & Pierson UK, Credit Anstalt Bankverein and Goto Bank UK. "Ten per cent of our budget is a contingency fund to cover the costs of delays and problems", says Thomas. "We've

found that the Chinese make films at a more leisurely pace. But we haven't had a major problem and we haven't had to compromise on the script yet."

More than 60 actors have principal parts in the film, in addition to the 19,000 Chinese extras and 1,000 People's Liberation Army soldiers who will comprise the crowd scenes. But a strong constellation of stars should help draw movie-goers to the box-office. Among them are John Lone, whose credits include Michael Cimino's Year of the Dragon and Fred Schepisi's Iceman, Jean Chen, a 25-year-old actress from Shanghai who appeared in Raffaella de Laurentis's Taipan, and well-known figures such as the British actor Peter O'Toole, who plays Pu Yi's English tutor, and Ying Ruocheng, a Chinese actor with US film experience.

Irving Wardle at the Dublin Festival Blazing a trail underground

Line 1 (Olympia), which reaches the Shaw Theatre on Wednesday, is the work of Volker Ludwig and the Berlin Grips Theatre, who devote themselves to dramatizing youthful experience and how to cope with it. They are a great pathfinding troupe to watch the British stage has so far turned a blind eye. A fine earlier piece, Alles Plastik, came and went unnoticed at Stratford East two years ago; for their second visit they have taken the heretically unprecedented step of re-rehearsing the production in English.

Like previous Grips shows, Line 1 centres on the widespread German phenomenon of runaway children. It is also the company's first musical; music, for once, being prompted by the needs of the story. Hitting town in pursuit of her rock-star boyfriend, the runaway girl (Janette Rauch) takes a ride on the under-

THEATRE

ground that lass the full duration of the show. Line 1, locally known as the Orient Express, runs from the central Zoo station to Kreuzberg, the largest Turkish city outside Turkey. It thus furnishes an animated meeting-point for a large cross-section of the inhabitants of the city of new beginnings. Music, from the No Ticket group, characterizes the various commuters and underworld habits with excursions into rock, patriotic pastiche and traditional jazz. The piece develops on two simultaneous fronts as an up-to-the-minute Berlin cabaret and as a traditionally German Bildungsroman.

The joints sometimes show, particularly in the plotting. It takes no time at all for the girl to reach Kreuzberg and find the bird has flown; after which Ludwig resorts to some unconvincing stratagems to keep her travelling up and down the line. Also, after the usual picture of city types too buried in their Bild Zeitungs to have any time for a bewildered outsider, all the travellers become extremely chatty just as if they were in a play.

They become irresistible, however, once the journey is under way. There are sharply angled glimpses of SDF supporters, pimps, drunks, hussars and the bourgeoisie, past and present; a quartet of old ladies with sentimental recollections of the Nazis, and a young insurance clerk "living dangerously" with his 14-channel cable television. More important is the underworld fraternity who come together

to help the girl in her quest. Thanks to them, though, she has grown up and rejects the fairy-tale figure who descends in satin in favour of a devoted boy she had previously mistaken for a fisher. It is a happy ending for her. For the others, as someone says, "people are cheated out of their lives by people you never meet on the tube".

Halfway through a tour that reaches London 10 January, the Cheek by Jowl troupe arrived at the Mansion House with Declan Donnellan's production of Twelfth Night and Corneille's The Cid which proved an even bigger revelation than last year's Andromaque. As before, the approach is to acknowledge the impossibility of emulating French classic rhetoric, and to go instead for sense and structure. Exit the traditional directorate of King Alfonso XIII in their trim blue tunics and long boots. No postures are struck, voices are seldom raised and the text (translated by David Bryer) consists of barely stressed conversa-

tional lines, occasionally contracting into a couplet to end a scene or climax an irony. These are believable human beings, strongly characterized, capable of humour, rapid tonal changes and moral contortions that sting the audience into laughter.

That is the main point. The Cid is about the Spanish code of honour, in standard classical practice it serves as a springboard into the high passions; here it is under continuous examination. The focus on a cootest worked out under stringent rules has been sharpened by confining it to a central acting area across which the company clack to boots and high heels like self-propelling chessmen. Playing style combines critical detachment with full-blooded identification; particularly in the case of Aden Gillett's Rodrigo, with his brilliant smile and graveyard voice. But the undoubted hero of the evening is Hugh Ross's King, a mercurially ironic arbiter amusedly surveying the cootest from above.

At the Gaiety, the Peking Opera had their predictable stunning effect, adding to their existing reputation for martial arts and acrobatics with an unusual line in delicate romantic comedy. See them at Sadler's Wells next month.



Janette Rauch as the runaway on the fascinating Line 1

Rerieved by a £50,000 grant from the American-based Ireland Fund after the loss of its Arts Council subsidy, the Dublin Theatre Festival seems to be undergoing the same kind of changes that are overhauling the visible face of the city. Visitors in days gone by could sample a variety of local work in a setting of crumbling elegance. Now there are holes in the ground and structures like the Central Bank's concrete club-sandwich, which Tommy O'Neill (one of this year's new playwrights) sums up as "big brother buildings".

As for the festival, there is no lack of home-grown material: such as Mr O'Neill's Have a Nice Day (Focus Theatre), a co-vernacular piece for two former drug addicts caught trespassing on a private golf course, which exposes a line of fresh targets to the rasping wit of the age-old Dublin underdog. But with the exception of Frank McGuinness's Innocence, which opens this week at the Gate, most new Irish work is confined to fringe addresses.

LSO/Litton Barbican

What is it about the Elgar Cello Concerto that so inspires younger players? In the Sixties, years ago, the incomparable recording of Jacqueline Du Pré, whose mellow and intense playing transcended the generation-gap between composer (this was his last substantial orchestral piece) and performer. And now we have to reckon with the formidable version of Alexander Baillie, who on Saturday gave a reading that, if it could not surpass that of Du Pré, nevertheless ran it close for its concentration and sheer searing beauty.

Baillie's view of the work actually seemed a degree less self-indulgent, more objectively thought through than Du Pré's, though he still made every moment count to its predominantly sad, nostalgic and pessimistic course. The weight of each gesture was instinctively calculated as it came, and thus he avoided any trace of affectation, while needless to say his technical command was flawless, his tone-quality finely graded and, most important, his reactions utterly spontaneous. All of which must have made life slightly tricky for the London Symphony Orchestra, though the natural flow of Baillie's performance was surely something infectious. At any rate the orchestra seemed to be in fine, alert form under the confident guiding hand of Andrew Litton, who ensured that those deft touches of Elgar's beautifully balanced orchestration were delivered to full effect.

S.P.

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET (Change on week)

FT 30 Share 1234.0 (-4.4) FT-SE 100 1560.8 (-7.8) Bargains 22126 USM (Datastream) 122.09 (-0.15)

THE POUND (Change on week)

US Dollar 1.4410 (+0.0030) W German mark 2.8784 (-0.0645) Trade-weighted 68.2 (-0.5)

Decision time for Extel bid

By John Bell City Editor

Extel, the publishing and news agency group, will be taking key decisions in the next couple of days over its "white knight" role in the £145 million bid for McCorquodale, the banknote printers.

The Extel board has been examining the possibility of a bid in excess of that by the original bidder, Norton Opax, whose specialized printing operations include a sizeable income from lottery tickets.

But Extel's plans have been complicated by the spoiling tactics of Mr Robert Maxwell, the Daily Mirror publisher, who last week built up a 7.5 per cent shareholding in McCorquodale.

Mr Maxwell's intervention has also muddied the waters for Norton Opax. Buying from Mr Maxwell's brokers, has ensured that McCorquodale's share price has remained well clear of 260p, the highest level at which Norton Opax may buy without triggering off the need for a fresh, higher offer.

Extel's board will be taking account of the fact that Mr Maxwell will also be able to complicate life should Extel launch a counter-offer. What might just cramp Mr Maxwell's style is an investigation by the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers into suggestions that he and Norton Opax might be acting in concert.

Such matters are notoriously hard to prove, though Mr Maxwell himself made it easy for the panel in another bid battle not so long ago when he agreed to accept an offer of a seat on the Demerger Corporation board during its bitter and unsuccessful attempt to take over Extel.

If the panel finds evidence of a concert party between Norton Opax and Mr Maxwell, it could prove a significant factor in determining the fate of McCorquodale. For it would limit market purchases by the two to a combined total of 29.9 per cent. Norton Opax quickly acquired 13 per cent of McCorquodale before Extel and Mr Maxwell lifted the price beyond their buying level. Mr Maxwell's stake lifts their combined holding to more than 30 per cent.

Beecham list

Beecham, the pharmaceuticals to consumer products group, is reaching the final stages of the planned home improvement division, which includes brands like Copex, UHU and Unibond Glues.

Appointments: US Newsbook 22 For Exch 27 Money Mkts 22 Share Price 24

Opec and money supply test Lawson's resolve

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Government faces what could be a testing week in financial markets. The failure of last week's meeting of the International Monetary Fund to agree a co-ordinated approach to economic management leaves both the dollar and sterling exposed.

So far the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have been determined to resist higher interest rates, although money markets were indicating a rise of up to 2 per cent for much of last week. They have been strengthened in this determination by their success in resisting a similar raid on sterling in January.

Two factors are likely to determine whether the Government can repeat this success and avoid a politically embarrassing rise in rates during the Conservative Party conference beginning at Bournemouth tomorrow.

One is the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, beginning in Geneva today. The

other is the money supply figures for September, due tomorrow.

Ministers may be calculating that the news from Opec and on the money supply, which in the second case will already be known to them, will be better than expected. If so, pressure on interest rates could subside for the time being.

Opec watchers are hopeful that the meeting in Geneva will roll forward the agreement to limit oil output until the end of the year when demand will be at its peak. If limits can be agreed, the price will be at least partially underpinned and one of the uncertainties surrounding the pound will be reduced for the time being.

Growth in the money supply is expected in financial markets to have been high during September. The average forecast appears to be a rise of at least 3 per cent.

The main contributor to monetary expansion will be

repayments of petroleum revenue tax to the oil companies after the price fall. According to Mr Mark Cliffe, chief economist with the stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers, there could be a rebate of £900 million compared with payments last year of £1.4 billion. The figures may be complicated by deposits building up in banks ready to pay for TSB shares.

Whatever the September figures show, concern over the longer term trend in credit expansion and the money supply is growing. In his annual speech at the Mansion House on Thursday week, the Chancellor will be expected to offer some interpretation of current monetary conditions.

Mr Cliffe said: "The chances of the Government resisting a rise in interest rates have been enhanced by getting this far. But there is still a feeling of inevitability about a rise. The state of the pound will condition the size of the increase." Comment, page 13

Oil ministers in new drive for target of \$19 a barrel

From David Young, Geneva

Oil ministers from the 13 Opec countries will today renew their efforts to drive the world oil price upwards - a move which would increase North Sea tax revenues and help Britain in its efforts to keep down interest rates.

Most Opec ministers now agree that they should be aiming at an oil price of \$19 a barrel by the end of this year.

However, internal disputes within Opec could damage that prospect. Oil traders are predicting that, unless a new agreement emerges from the Geneva meeting and that it is an agreement to which all member countries adhere strictly, the price will languish at around \$15 a barrel and, possibly, drop towards \$10.

Ministers assembling in Geneva yesterday were confident that the present output agreement, which runs until the end of this month, could be extended until the end of the year.

Señor Arturo Grisanti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said

that an extension of the agreement "is the very least that Opec can do."

Dr Subroto of Indonesia is confident also that the present agreement could be extended and possibly eased to allow output to rise from its present 16.8 million barrels a day to 17.5 mbd.

He said: "We have to decide on interim measures to follow the present output restrictions. One possibility is to stick to the present ceiling, the other is to set it slightly higher, taking into consideration the expected increase in demand during the last quarter of this year."

However, Opec will have to concentrate also on finding a way of policing its own agreements.

The present agreement is being broken by the United Arab Emirates; normally one of the half-dozen Opec members which sticks to the rules. It has been over-producing during the past six weeks and has incurred the wrath of its

wealthy neighbours, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Although the oil producers in the Arab Gulf have the lowest oil production costs - it costs more there to produce a barrel of fresh water - the Arab Emirates have seen their oil revenues fall by more than half in the past year.

Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani said in Geneva that Saudi Arabia was sticking rigidly to its quota of 4.35 mbd and the other two big Gulf producers, Kuwait and Qatar, have been obeying the rules.

The four nations who form the Gulf Co-operation Council are likely to discuss the issue tomorrow. A preliminary meeting on Saturday night in Geneva ended acrimoniously after only an hour, with all four oil ministers agreeing not to discuss what took place.

However, Sheik Ali Khalifa, the Kuwaiti oil minister, is determined that the issue of breaching quotas should be on the agenda in Geneva.

New chief at Avis ready for flotation

By Our Industrial Editor

Avis Europe, formed out of the British, European, African and Middle East car rental and leasing interests of the US-based Avis Inc, is getting its new chairman Sir John Brembridge, until recently financial secretary of the Hongkong administration.

Recruitment of Sir John, highly successful as the Hongkong "Chancellor of the Exchequer," is a fresh fillip for Avis Europe as it prepares for flotation on the London stock market.

The flotation, expected towards the end of this month, should raise between £150 million and £200 million.

Sir John was formerly chairman of John Swire & Sons, one of Hongkong's most powerful conglomerates, and until 1980 was chairman of its successful Cathay Pacific Airways subsidiary.

He joins a management team headed by Mr Alan Cathcart who took over as managing director in 1983. It was Mr Cathcart who extricated Avis Europe from problems in truck leasing and then saw increased profits.

Kleinwort to sell £90m M&G unit trust stake

By Alison Eadie

The disposal of the 42 per cent stake held by the merchant bank Kleinwort Benson in M&G Group, the unit trust manager, looks likely to go ahead in the next six months probably by an issue of shares. The stake is valued at around £90 million in today's stock market, compared with a cost price for Kleinwort estimated at £5 million. M&G commands a stock market value of £212 million.

Mr David Hopkinson, deputy chairman and managing director of M&G who is due to retire early next year, said yesterday that talks with Kleinwort on the intended sale had been in progress for a year.

He said it was a question of choosing the best way and the best time. It was decided to wait until after M&G's year end, which has just closed on the September 30. M&G and Kleinwort were in perfect

agreement, he said. The need for M&G to remain independent was paramount, Mr Hopkinson said. The stake would not be sold to one group or individual, but would, he hoped, be spread as widely as possible. He indicated that a share issue to M&G's 500,000 clients would be a highly acceptable solution.

About 25 per cent of M&G is already quoted on the stock market. Although the loss of Kleinwort could increase the vulnerability of M&G to an unwelcome bid, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust's 31.7 per cent stake should be enough to guarantee the group's continuing independence.

The trustees' prime job was to maintain the independence of M&G, Mr Hopkinson said. "The whole success of the group depends on us being independent," he added.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Alva Investment Trust, Percy Bilton, CA Galleries, Fortnum & Mason, Hunting Petroleum Services, S Jerome & Sons, Midland Maris, Molins, Morgan Grenfell, John Mowlem, North British Canadian Investment Co, Riley Leisure, Turriff Corp, Part Centres, Close Brothers, Firstrand Oil and Gas, James Halstead, Michael Peters Group. TOMORROW - Interims: Ash & Lacy (amended), Showhorpe Holdings, Chris International (dividend), Lifford's Dairies, Conicap, Iewden-Stuart Plant, Lamont Holdings, London & Edinburgh Trust, Miles 33, Sears, L.C. Sikolenko Lubricants, Telephone Rentals, Finalis-C Holdings, China & East- Investment Co. WEDNESDAY - Interims: Anglo-American Investment Trust, Berkeley Exploration &

Production, Conrad Holdings, Dataserv Inc, Frank G Gates, Gramplan Holdings, Greenbank Group, Higgs and Hill, Holt Lloyd International, Johnston Group, PSM International, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, C & W Walker. Finals: Attwoods, Britannia Security Group, John Maunders Group, Sanderson Murray & Elder, TSW-Television South West.

THURSDAY - Interims: British Syphon Industries, Campari International, Druck Holdings, James Finlay, Monument Oil and Gas, Austin Reed Group, Ruberoid, Willaire Overseas, Finalis: Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries, New Central Wiltwatersrand Areas (dividend), Photo-Me International, Savage Group, F W Thorpe.

FRIDAY - Interims: Alva-Laval AB, Arcoelectric (Holdings). Finals: Prestwich Holdings.



Mr Tony Grimshaw: plans to be market leader (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Vickers set to buy tank plant

By Teresa Poole Business Correspondent

Vickers is expected today to announce the completion of its purchase of the Royal Ordnance tank factory at Leeds, paving the way for the sale of the rest of the state-owned arms manufacturer this year.

With the Leeds deal completed, N M Rothschild, the merchant banker, will now issue a confidential package of financial information to companies with a genuine interest in Royal Ordnance.

The Government wants a buyer for the whole of the rest of Royal Ordnance and is likely to put constraints on any purchaser splitting up the company later. A number of companies have expressed interest but British Aerospace is emerging as the candidate most favoured by the Royal Ordnance management.

Under the original flotation plans, which were cancelled by the Government at the eleventh hour in July, privatization was expected to raise up to £200 million. A private sale is likely to bring in considerably less.

Vickers has paid £11.2 million for the Leeds factory, but there will be a further price adjustment according to a formula based on the £16 million asset value of the business. It plans to invest £14 million in a new factory at Leeds.

Lloyd's PCW fund may rise

Lloyd's insurance market's central fund to meet deficiencies on former PCW syndicates looks set to rise from £235 million as more loss-making syndicates are included in the PCW net.

Aviation syndicate 859 may be added to those already run by AU3, the agency responsible for closing down the loss-making PCW syndicates. AU3 is pressing Lloyd's for the inclusion of the syndicate in any eventual settlement of the PCW affair.

PCW affair, page 20

Swan National buys holiday company

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

As TSB's flotation moves it towards a new growth phase, its car rental subsidiary, Swan National, yesterday announced its first acquisition which will take it into selling packaged holidays.

Swan National is buying for an undisclosed sum Stardust & Camelot, a specialist in the now booming short-break holidays which it claims to have pioneered 20 years ago when it was part of the hotels marketing operation at Grand Metropolitan group.

The now separate company with its turnover of £6 million a year is one of the four biggest short-break holiday operations, the others being Capital Breaks (part of Trusthouse Forte, Britain's largest hotel chain), High Life (linked to Scottish & Newcastle's Thistle Hotels) and Golden Rail, the British Rail subsidiary.

Short breaks are the fastest-expanding sector in British tourism. Last year 38 million people went on breaks of between one and three days, spending £850 million.

The market growth is running at between 15 and 20 per cent a year, according to Mr Tony Grimshaw, managing director of Swan National. "We are looking for a 50 per cent growth in this product, well ahead of the market's expansion, and an early £2

million increase in turnover," he said. "We intend to re-establish it as market leader."

Swan National will be switching into the new operation business worth £500,000 from the car rental operation's promotion of weekends away combining car hire with a low-cost hotel stay.

This was a joint operation with Stardust which was bought out from Grand Metropolitan by its management headed by Mr Robin Booker, who is staying with Stardust as its managing director.

Stardust will operate independently of the car hire business, selling through travel agents. There will be brochures in Swan's 100 rental locations around Britain but bookings will be channelled through the local travel agents.

At the same time Swan is offering a new bookings service for hotels through Stardust and will now have the facility to issue air and rail tickets.

Mr Freddie Aldous, chairman of Swan National, said: "Stardust & Camelot offers us products, services and operational facilities which complement our own and enable us to continue our programme of expansion in the leisure market."

Leasing overtaken, page 20

VAT on share deals muddle

By Our City Editor

With just three weeks to go, the Vatman has thrown an unexpected spanner into the City's preparations for Big Bang. A much awaited ruling on how VAT will be applied to share dealings has caused almost as much confusion as it has removed - especially in the minds of smaller brokers who were planning to continue their old-style agency business and leave the new-found freedom to act as market-makers to others.

When Big Bang was a good deal further away than it is now, most private client brokers assumed that principals such as jobbers traded without benefit of the Vatman's attention, but agents like themselves were unable to escape.

At a later stage, it became clear that in the brand-new de-regulated City with principals and agents all beneath the same corporate roof, deciding which transactions would be subject to the levy and which would not was going to be a great deal more complex than first thought.

Until last week, clarification was eagerly awaited. It appeared also to be a long time coming, which many City men thought due to the awareness of the Customs and Excise that unless its crucial ruling was watertight, millions of tax on agency business of all sorts might disappear beyond the taxman's grasp.

It now appears that any order to buy or sell shares may or may not be subject to VAT on the commission involved according to who carries it out.

If a broker passes the business to his own in-house market maker, the commission involved is not subject to VAT. If, however, the broker asks another firm's market makers to do the deal, his commission will be subject to VAT. Alas, firms without market makers in-house, appear to be without an option.

Ex-Standard Bank chief sues for libel

Mr Stuart Tarrant, who resigned from the board of Standard Chartered Bank last July, has started a libel action over a Wall Street Journal article dealing with the bank's rejection of a £1.3 billion takeover bid by Lloyds Bank.

Mr Tarrant, of Bracknell, Berkshire, Standard's chief financial officer for six years, is suing Dow Jones publishing company (Europe).

Standard had denied a suggestion that Mr Tarrant voted against the board's decision to reject Lloyds' bid, and said his resignation had been agreed amicably.

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New target for the Korean who won over Japan and the US

From David Watts
Seoul

Now Kim is wooing the Europeans

Britain and South Korea must work together in business and in the exchange of technology whether you like it or not.

There is no attempt to dress up as false flattery what Mr Kim Woo Chong, chairman of Daewoo Corporation, considers reality. Mr Kim is one of the key businessmen who have made the South Korean economy what it is today through grit and a willingness to take risks - often at government dicta and which sometimes make bankers blanch.

Certainly, a coming-together of European and South Korean business and technology is government writ in Seoul but the leader of one of South Korea's most successful conglomerates is himself convinced that the marriage of European technological expertise and hard-working, low-cost Korean labour is the way forward.

South Korea is eager to get away from its long-standing trading and technological dependence on the economies of Japan and the United States while European countries, increasingly faced with the prospect of being bypassed by the Pacific rim countries through low-cost products, need a way back into the competition with the Japanese.

To Mr Kim, co-operation



Kim Woo Chong, Europe can compete with Japan

as severe as they are often presented and that, when the time comes, it will pull itself up by the bootstraps.

"Basically, Europe can compete with Japan if it works as hard. When it really comes to the crunch they can do it. Maybe the United States has more problems than Europe in this way," he said.

"The problem is basically one of the spirit and dedication. I find European people more dedicated when it comes to their own countries. They have pride. It's a matter of philosophy."

Chairman Kim's philosophy is work, work and more work. To achieve last year's target of \$3 billion (£2.08 billion) in exports, Daewoo simply worked Sundays and holidays for the last quarter. But the regular work pattern is not different from that. Workers can expect nothing more than a long weekend as their annual holiday.

From textiles to making one

of the best IBM-compatible personal computers on the American market, Daewoo leaves scarcely a sector untouched.

The Daewoo chairman's policy of making Korea's biggest also the best is now becoming a reality. Compact cars made by Daewoo, a version of the Opel Kadett, will soon be on the American market with a Pontiac label. Hyundai may be breaking into the British, Canadian and American markets with the cheap Pony, Excel and Stellar, but Daewoo is determined to earn Korean products a reputation not only for economy but for quality.

Mr Kim is so confident of achieving this that he expects to be putting cars into the Japanese market by the 1990s. So far the only Korean cars on Japanese roads are a handful with the South Korean embassy in Tokyo. By that date also he expects Daewoo to be selling 200,000 cars a year in the North American market.

All this success does not come without rigid discipline on the factory floor. The military came in to break one Daewoo strike, but no-one can claim that Mr Kim does not lead by example.

When he is not travelling the world seeking export orders he is usually in his office before most of his employees. He lives on his salary, according to Daewoo staff, and still has a modest home in Seoul.

Contract hire overtakes car leasing

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

More vehicles are being rented and leased - with cars leading the way. But reduced tax advantages in finance leasing are leading to changes in the ways commercial vehicle fleets are operated, with finance leasing showing a decline and contract hire a rise.

This emerges from the latest survey of the rental and leasing market by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA), which shows a 19 per cent boost in self-drive rental for cars in 1985, a 20.3 per cent jump in contract hire and a rise of 11.6 per cent in finance leasing, all compared with the previous 12 months.

But finance leasing of commercial vehicles, including the growing army of big units with trailers, has dropped by 20.4 per cent among BVRLA members, while contract hire has risen by 15 per cent. There was also

a 12 per cent increase in self-drive rental of commercial vehicles.

Among light vans, finance leasing declined by 8 per cent and contract hire rose by 9.9 per cent.

Most self-drive rental is short-term. Contract hire shoulders everything for a company needing vehicles, usually covering full maintenance, servicing, renewals of batteries and tyres and provision of relief vehicles when needed.

Finance leasing is a simple operation with vehicles usually sold at the end of an agreement. The advantages of such leasing came under pressure when Budget changes over the past three years reduced capital allowances on new equipment from 100 per cent to 25 per cent. The allowances could be set against profits by those providing the lease capital.

But the BVRLA analyses

give only a partial picture of what has happened in finance leasing. Much of this, with buying on hire purchase, is in the hands of finance houses and merchant banks.

Returns of their trade bodies, the Equipment Leasing Association and the Finance Houses Association, indicate a 15 per cent increase in commercial vehicle leasing in the first quarter of this year.

Even in the second quarter a marginal increase of 2 per cent was reported but, because the effect of inflation in vehicle pricing was not taken into account, this showed how leasing was coming under pressure after capital allowances fell to the 25 per cent level in April.

Some in leasing estimate that business may have fallen by 30 per cent or more after the changes in allowances, but there is a widespread belief in this sector that the core of the business will now remain

intact. Profit margins have come down and it is claimed leasing now compares with bank finance.

ELA points to research work at Bath University which has shown that tax allowances have not necessarily been a dominant factor in equipment leasing decisions.

But Mr Terry Nunn, chairman of BVRLA's commercial vehicle committee, pointed out that leased equipment next year will also have to be shown on balance sheets as a charge. This makes a company look more highly geared.

The growth in car rental this year was held back for a time by the fall-off in arrivals of American tourists and business travellers, but they have returned, according to Mr Terry Grimshaw, managing director of Sun National Rentals, one of the top half-dozen car renters. He puts 1986 growth at 12 per cent in car rental.

The naming of the parts in the PCW scandal

ANALYSIS

The legacy of the PCW affair, the largest and most complicated of the scandals to have rocked Lloyd's, still hangs like a dark cloud over the insurance market. Efforts to move into the bright future of enlightened self-regulation, ushered in by the 1982 Lloyd's Act, will be in vain unless PCW is laid to rest.

The stark question now facing Lloyd's is whether the mess is capable of being resolved by a compromise acceptable to enough people in the market to make it work.

If not, the 400 hardest hit names on former PCW syndicates are ready to launch a wide-ranging law suit, both here and in America, citing 40 defendants including Lloyd's brokers Minet Holdings, Sedgwick and Alexander Howden, accountants Arthur Young and Lloyd's itself.

Legal action could drag on for years - some say seven to 10 years - and could do irreparable harm to Lloyd's business interests worldwide. It was the realization that names had reasonable grounds for complaint that persuaded the insurance market last December - or more particularly its chairman, Mr Peter Miller - to turn to the idea of a market-wide settlement.

The PCW affair stemmed from the misappropriation of £39 million of names' money by the founders of the PCW underwriting agency, Mr Peter Cameron-Webb and Mr Peter Dixon. The milking of the syndicates lasted from 1968 until 1982, when the scandal broke on the insurance market and the two founders quietly removed themselves from the country.

At first the problem appeared fairly straightforward. The brokers most directly involved - Minet through its ownership of the PCW underwriting agency and Alexander Howden through whose companies the money was diverted overseas - agreed to pay back the names their lost money. An offer of £38 million was made in June 1984 and accepted, after some reluctance, by most of the 1,500 PCW names.

Much of the reluctance centred on the lack of interest paid on the money - estimated by the accountancy firm of Price Waterhouse at £40 million - and on the legal waiver



The new Lloyd's - where insurance is written

names are liable for the lot.

PCW names, however, have been busy refining their case and uncovering new evidence. The draft statement of claim drawn up by lawyers acting for a steering committee of names last December concentrated on the manner in which the money disappeared offshore through quota share reinsurance contracts.

The thrust in the new claim being drawn up now will be that the whole trading pattern of the PCW syndicates from 1968 to 1982 was rotten. The transferring of money from one syndicate to another, the use of aggregate reinsurances for all the syndicates and the manipulation of money to distort syndicate results add up to a false trading pattern.

Names joined in their droves in the 1970s, because the PCW syndicates were among the largest, most prestigious and most profitable at Lloyd's. Lawyers will argue now that the agency was trading on a false prospectus.

In the last few months painstaking work done by AUA3, the agency appointed by Lloyd's in May last year as receiver to the PCW syndicates, has revealed a deliberate pattern of deceit by Mr Cameron-Webb and Mr Dixon. If one syndicate showed a loss, money was switched from another to camouflage it. The inference is that all declared results on all past years are suspect.

The balloon went up in 1982. Since then a proper assessment of the poor quality of the underwriting book and the lack of adequate reinsurances, worsened by the undoing of reinsurances to pay the 1984 compensation offer, have emerged.

The widening scope of the PCW affair has become apparent also. The number of syndicates in AUA3's net has increased with the addition in the summer of syndicate 970, previously run by Gardner Mountain & Capel-Cure Agencies, and the possible addition of aviation syndicate 859 because of its yawning losses and shared reinsurances with PCW.

The position of 859 is further complicated by the conflict of interest arising from Minet owning the syndicate and Minet being one of the main defendants in the names' writ.

Lloyd's cannot hope to bring all parties to an agreement until all syndicates that might be involved are drawn into the net.

A further earmarking of the central fund could well stir more controversy than it already has in the market. Although the measure is due to run only until June 30 next year, some Lloyd's members believe the fact of the earmarking has conceded the principle of a market rescue.

If PCW names refuse to pay their losses and a settlement is not reached, the central fund will be obliged to pay claims on PCW policies running at around £10 million a year.

Lloyd's has always maintained that names must pay a "substantial" proportion of their losses.

Spicer & Peger, the accountants acting for AUA3, hope by the middle of next month to produce a breakdown of how losses divide between individual names. Some names will be willing and able to pay, some will not.

Whatever the breakdown, the names' lawyers will challenge the allocation as invalid because of the past accounting muddle. They will challenge also any attempt to differentiate between losses caused by fraud and losses caused by bad underwriting.

Lloyd's is still aiming for a settlement by the end of the year. If it fails, the prospect of prolonged litigation looms.

The most worrying aspect for Lloyd's is the prospect of a lawsuit in the United States. There are remedies available to names through American courts that are not available in Britain.

The spectre of using RICO - the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations legislation - has been raised by the names' lawyers, although it sent Lloyd's into such a frenzy of fury that it has been shelved.

There appears to be a genuine will on the part of Lloyd's and the names to find a workable solution. Many PCW names wish to continue underwriting at the insurance market and have no desire for a fight to the death. The actual mechanics of such a settlement, however, are proving difficult to hammer out.

Alison Eadie

ADVERTISEMENT
PLESSEY HOTLINE

World's first wristwatch visual pager

For the Receptor, the world's first personal watch communication terminal, only Plessey had the bipolar technology to design all the radio requirements on a single integrated circuit.

The Receptor is being developed by AT&E Laboratories of Oregon, USA. It will receive messages anywhere in the world where the Receptor service is provided.

Extremely sophisticated electronics receive, detect, decode and display messages transmitted on FM frequencies. A full alphanumeric display can show messages such as 'Call home' or 'Call 79336251'.

TIME ZONES

By using a synchronous adjustable time slot, data contained in the local transmission will keep the displayed time extremely accurate, and automatically correct it across time zones.

Messages to the Receptor wearer will be telephoned to an operator who then transmits them to the appropriate FM radio station. The station then broadcasts the information on an FM sub-channel signal to the watch, which is equipped with a wrist-band antenna.

The transmission triggers a signal on the watch to tell the wearer that a message is waiting to be displayed when he presses a button.

AT&E chose Plessey to supply the Receptor's integrated circuits because of their systems expertise, design skills and process technology.

Because of the size restrictions of the Receptor system and the performance required, highly specialised help was made available by the Plessey Electronics Systems Research Group at Roke Manor, who hold numerous patents in radio techniques.

Optical fibre system sales in the USA

Stromberg-Carlson, the Plessey subsidiary in the USA, has made the first sales of its System 140 transmission equipment to telephone companies in Virginia and Iowa.

In Virginia, a Stromberg-Carlson 140 megabits per second lightwave link will provide Continental Telephone Company with a 12-mile fibre optic transmission route between Haymarket and Arcola.

For Continental Telephone Company of Iowa, two systems will provide fibre optic transmission routes from Chariton to Promise City and Promise City to Centerville, a distance totalling 43 miles.

PLESSEY TO MANAGE MOD ENVIRONMENTAL TEST CENTRE

Plessey has won a multi-million pound contract from the Ministry of Defence to manage Britain's largest environmental test facility.

Under a five-year contract, Plessey Assessment Services, Europe's premier independent test house, will operate the Environmental Test Centre at Foulness in Essex for the MOD.

The contract is the latest move in a series which began two years ago, when the MOD initiated a contractualisation programme for much of the work of its six Proof and Experimental Establishments and the Foulness Environmental Test Centre.

Plessey management of Foulness is the most substantial step forward in this programme so far.

The Foulness centre, principally involved in the testing of munitions, occupies over 150 acres, with more than seventy buildings containing a complete range of climatic and dynamic mechanical test facilities.

It is expected that some thirty new jobs will be created at Foulness and at Titchfield, where Plessey Assessment Services has its headquarters.

Plessey Assessment Services recently successfully completed a contract to supply expertise for a new environmental test facility for the Royal Ordnance Explosives Division at Bischopton, Renfrewshire.

Within a year Plessey secured full NATLAS accreditation, and commissioned and established all operational requirements.

British Rail adds more passenger information

Plessey has won a contract to supply, install and commission a passenger information system for British Rail's Maidstone - Ashford line.

It will bring the number of stations in the Southern Region equipped by Plessey to more than sixty.

The system will provide flat-type visual indicators at larger stations and audio announcements at all the stations. Small or unmanned stations will

PLESSEY
The height of high technology.

Talks on loans for small businesses

By Our Industrial Editor

Mr David Trippier, minister for small business at the Department of Employment, is planning a whistle-stop tour of Britain to talk to bank managers at the grass-roots level to persuade them to adopt a more sympathetic approach to young businesses needing loans.

It will take him to about 24 regional meetings in the next 12 months. More will follow to cover the entire country.

Each will be a seminar on the various forms of bank financing for small businesses but the main focus is expected to be the revamped government Loan Guarantee Scheme (LGS).

LGS interest rates are now lower after changes in the last Budget. Loans under the scheme have been running at just over 100 a month in the four months to the end of August, more than doubling the average rate seen in the year to March. But the Government's target is 400 a month.

Mr Trippier said: "Just as I think it is important to talk as I have done to the chairmen of the banks and enlist their support for the LGS, it is equally vital for me to talk to the branch managers at regional or sub-regional level.

"Rightly or wrongly the

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Continuing Programme, London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA. Telephone 01-262 5050. Telex 27461 LBS NOX G

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FACSIMILE	223-7062	FOREIGN EXCHANGE	721-3270	NON-DOLLAR SALES	721-3145
CAPITAL MARKET SERVICES	721-3665	GILT SALES	721-3265	SETTLEMENTS	721-2015
CORPORATION COVERAGE	721-3165	GOVERNMENT SALES	721-3282	SYNDICATE	
CORPORATE FINANCE	721-3855	FIXED INCOME SALES	721-3110	FIXED INCOME	721-3623
	721-3864	EQUITY	721-3145	EQUITY	721-3500

USM REVIEW

Quality fashion makers are having to let out the seams

Frank Usher and Windmoor, both quality women's clothing companies, made their debut on the market this summer...

There are some superficial similarities between the two, for instance both are established businesses. Windmoor was founded in 1933 and Frank Usher in 1942...

Frank Usher has been owned by Selincourt since 1961, although the original family management continues

and a 55 per cent rise in pretax profits to £694,000. Trading in the second half is going well and the company could make £1.4 million for the full year...

Windmoor is still run by the founding family, and has enjoyed an excellent record over the past decade. Its product range is high-quality women's outer wear.

In 1979 the company started the Planet label, aimed at the career-oriented professional aged between 25 and 45 years - some three years before Next moved into this market.

UK venture capital rises 42%

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Britain, leader in the European Economic Community in developing the risk capital market, had a 42 per cent increase in money raised for venture capital projects last year.

Altogether, £1.24 billion was available for investment, compared with £880 million in 1984, according to a survey carried out for the European Venture Capital Association by Peat Marwick Mitchell.

Britain raised 41 per cent of EEC risk capital funds. Actual investment by venture capital funds in Britain during 1985 rose from £154.2 million in 1984 to £222.7 million.

The increase in available cash in Britain outpaced growth in the EEC, where there was a 38 per cent rise in 1985 over the previous year.

Dr Neil Cross, chairman of the EVCA, said: "It indicates a healthy future for the British venture capital industry."

But the survey underlines the problems of the industry in Britain. Funds are unevenly distributed, with more than 60 per cent of investments last year going to London and the South-east.

Small and seedcorn or start-up projects, mostly involving investments of less than £250,000, are still being starved of resources. In 1984, seedcorn financing accounted for only 3.8 per cent of investments, dropping to 1.4 per cent last year.

Far more important than these semi-real events, however, will be the reaction of the dealers to Nigel Lawson's determination to avoid a rise in interest rates. That resolve will be tested, if it is backed by a strong, immediate and overt presence in the market by the Bank of England and its allies, it should be rewarded. Over a period, markets turning over more than \$200 billion a day overwhelm central bank reserves.

In the short run, dealers cringe before concerted international central bank action. They have to think whether a sterling movement has run its course or it just suits Mr Lawson and the Bundesbank to say so.

Respectable City analysts, such as James Capel, are now looking for the pound to fall to DM2.75, or 65 on the sterling index, for industry to recover sufficient competitiveness to outweigh the trade effects of the halving of oil prices. But only a month ago, DM2.9 by the year-end was a more popular target. That was passed last week so there is scope to persuade the market that enough is enough.

Allowing for this year's oil price changes alone, sterling has fallen far enough. The conventional calculation is that a 10 per cent change in oil prices should lead to a 3 per cent adjustment in sterling. That has now been completed on the sterling index and comfortably overshoot on the sterling market rate - more significant when the dollar has fallen sharply.

The trouble is that, in both directions, sterling does tend to overshoot its sustainable level, especially when compared with currencies integrated into the European Monetary System. This has had a malign effect over the long retreat of sterling since it scaled

COMMENT High cost of keeping sterling afloat

The next three days in the foreign exchange markets, in advance of the Chancellor's scheduled speech to the Conservative Party conference, could prove, to say the least, quite interesting.

Last week, the Bank of England made it clear it was supporting the pound, with the public help of the Bundesbank. But its efforts were more dogged than dramatic, leaving the Bank simply refusing the rise in interest rates signalled in the money markets.

The ingrained culture of a free market in the currency leads to intervention being presented in such a low key that it is barely distinguishable from smoothing operations to moderate the pace of change.

This week, the dealers will have both Opec corridor diplomacy and unusually meaningless money supply figures to chew on. The latter are advertised as better than expected, thanks possibly to the recherche concept that supporting sterling can reduce the money supply when pounds bought by the Bank are deemed to have been cancelled.

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the peaks in 1981 under the dual influence of oil prices and tight money policies. Interest rates have been jacked up each time a currency adjustment has turned into a run.

The process has been even more marked since the money supply was progressively demoted as an official measure of monetary conditions in favour of the exchange rate. Each downward surge in sterling has been initially discounted by the Treasury.

That is received as a lack of seriousness about monetary conditions, leaving us in the end with both a groggy currency and higher interest rates.

This ratchet effect (plus the measured rise in earnings in industry) has left British interest rates stranded at a high level when the international downturn in interest rates is beginning to peter out. No wonder Mr Lawson is keen to avoid another big rise this time, regardless of the political season. But that is no different from the last time.

This is the enduring case for Britain to seek protection within the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, instead of intermittently shadowing the mark in an unofficial way. The theoretical case against the system is that currency alignments are underplayed and allow devaluing countries not to adjust their domestic economies as fully as they might. In Britain's case, however, this would undoubtedly be better than the repeated overshooting which has proved so costly.

So long as leading countries maintain that they have no exchange rate policy, they will not care about the convergence of economic policies that might otherwise stabilize exchange rates. So any stability between the main trading blocs is accidental. The EMS is a mechanism for relative stability within a trading bloc, Asian countries such as Hong Kong, which have aligned their currencies with the United States, their main trading partner, provide another example. In each case, the evidence suggests this makes for greater domestic discipline, faster economic adjustments and, most important from Britain's point of view, more credibility for the exchange rate itself, thanks to automatic intervention with the help of Europe's reserves.

Mrs Thatcher prefers to maintain the three options of allowing the exchange rate to take the strain, moving interest rates or intervening with domestic reserves. The latest sterling affair suggests these options are in practice largely illusory.

Graham Searjeant Financial Editor

COMPANY NEWS

ELF UK: Agreement has been reached between Aram Energy, subsidiary of Aramco, and Elf Petroleum for the sale of an interest of 20 per cent in British petroleum production licence P455 (comprising blocks 49/5 and 49/50) to Elf UK. Elf is also acquiring a further 5 per cent interest from Ultra 3. The deal is worth £1.8 million (£1.8 million) to Aram and £1.7 million to North Sea.

KLEINWORT DEVELOPMENT FUND: Net earnings for the seven months to July 31 last, £174,850 (£175,092 for the year 1985). Earnings per share 3.51p (4.54p).

NORTH KALGURLI MINES: Operating profits, after tax, for the year to June 17, Aus\$6.9 million (£3.07 million), against Aus\$5.43 million. Total dividend 4 cents (nil).

HUNTING PETROLEUM SERVICES: The group has bought 65.44 per cent of Societe Anonyme Fleuryville for \$443,000 cash. Fleuryville, which operates from the group's Paris office, is an investment and property company.

CHRYSALIS GROUP: The group has bought 50 per cent of Showplay for £25,000 ordinary shares. Showplay is a new company and will operate in the area of events - including exhibitions and conferences, etc. The vendor will continue to own the remaining 50 per cent and will manage the business.

GILBERT HOUSE INVESTMENTS: Lets Green Estate - which recently made an offer for the Gilbert shares not already owned by it - reports that it and other big shareholders have received an approach which may result in an alternative offer for Gilbert. Shareholders are advised to take no action at present and a further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

MEGGITT HOLDINGS: The company has acquired Whittell Precision Engineering, located in Sandhurst, Berkshire. The initial consideration is £555,000, with an additional maximum deferred element of £100,000, depending on profits.

DALE ELECTRIC INTERNATIONAL: Mr Joseph Palmer, the chairman, told the annual meeting that management accounts for the third quarter of the current year showed a profit considerably above budget and in excess of last year's at the same stage. Dale Electric and the Thailand-based subsidiary, the only two loss-makers last year, are now in profit.

HAMBROS PLC: Cunningham, Hart (Hambros's 75 per cent-owned loss-adjusting offshoot) has acquired Graham Miller Sibilla, a loss-adjusting company. This will increase the number of offices in the Cunningham group from 28 to 43 and will give it national coverage.

COLONY PACIFIC EXPLORATIONS: The company reports a 10 per cent growth in third-quarter earnings and an increase in cash of Can\$215,000, bringing total cash reserves to Can\$763,000 (£384,000). Net income for the quarter was Can\$137,000 (£68,500) on revenues of Can\$238,000 (£119,000).

GENERAL INSTRUMENT CORP: The corporation's Jerrold Division has been selected to supply subscriber cable television equipment to Sammons Communications of Dallas, Texas. The potential value of the contract is about \$15 million (£10.4 million).

CLUFF OIL HOLDINGS: First half of 1986. No dividend (same). Turnover £1.13 million (£1.45 million). Pretax loss £347,000 (£132,000 loss). Loss per share 1.0p (0.4p).

GROFUND INTERNATIONAL: Gross revenue £70,014 (£68,000), against \$739,135, for the six months to Aug. 27.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing various unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and other financial data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for name, price, and other financial data.

TOKYO NON-STOP advertisement for Japan Air Lines, featuring a stylized graphic of a flight path and text describing non-stop flights from London to Tokyo.

GILT-EDGED

Be thankful we are not in EMS

The past few weeks have illustrated perfectly how fortunate it is that Britain is not a member of the exchange rate mechanism within the European Monetary System (EMS). This sentiment may be regarded in many economic circles as the equivalent of shouting "Liar" in the middle of the sermon since the EMS is widely seen as a "good thing".

For many countries it probably is. Britain, however, would suffer some very serious problems on EMS entry which the current head of enthusiasm building up in the gilt market largely ignores. Perhaps the fundamental problem is that if sterling's full participation in the EMS were to be made to work it would involve a far more radical change in the conduct of British economic policy than one can imagine the present Chancellor countenancing.

There are two broad ways of influencing the level of economic activity. One is to alter the balance between government revenues and expenditure (ie shift fiscal policy). The other is to act upon interest rates, the exchange rate and monetary growth (ie shift monetary policy).

Mr Lawson, of course, sees also a third policy option - to improve the "micro-economy" - but even he admits this is a long-term gradualist approach. Fiscal policy and monetary policy

are thus the only effective short-term policy approaches. Fiscal policy in Britain is, however, set on autopilot. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) effectively boxes the Chancellor in to a pre-ordained path for the PSBR. The odd target may be missed or fiddled with as sales but to a large extent the Chancellor has unilaterally disarmed fiscal policy.

This has thrown the whole emphasis in running the British economy on to monetary policy. Originally this meant trying to control monetary growth but this particular game has now been largely abandoned. Instead the Treasury now seeks to swing the exchange rate in response to changing economic circumstances.

Thus when inflation began to accelerate fairly smartly in the spring of 1985 the exchange rate was fixed. Some depreciation was then allowed last winter as oil prices fell and the depreciation seen since August can be plausibly tied in to the poor growth performance of the economy this summer.

Putting sterling into a fixed exchange rate system such as the EMS would thus deny what currently seems to be the most frequently used tool of macro-economic management.

Furthermore, if fiscal policy remains in a black box called the MTFS (and it is

very difficult to see Mr Lawson ever using fiscal policy as a serious means of influencing the economy) and if monetary policy is boxed into the EMS, this will pose the interesting question of who on earth is running the economy.

The flip answer from many in the gilt market would be "The Bundesbank". It might be added also that this is exactly what the British economy needs.

According to some of the more enthusiastic propagandists, German economic rectitude would be introduced and inflation abolished, all at a stroke. According to others, EMS membership would effectively mean that investors would be able to pick up double figure yields in a currency tied to the mark.

Commonsense suggests that there may well be a few problems with such accounts. It has to be questioned, for example, how far Britain's economic performance would converge on that of Germany. The North-east has been operating on a fixed exchange rate against the South-east for a long time now and there are very few signs yet of any convergence of economic performance.

If sterling attempted to enter a fixed exchange rate system against the mark at anything like current levels, it, instead, seems far more likely that we would soon start hitting the sort of problems which plagued us during the

old Bretton Woods fixed rate system.

As the Bank of England never tires of pointing out, British labour costs are rising much more rapidly than those of most of our competitors. With the oil production profile also declining it is difficult not to feel that the defence of a fixed exchange rate would soon become the dominant theme of British economic life - just as it used to be in the bad old 1950s and 1960s.

The initial reaction of gilts to EMS membership would almost certainly border on the ecstatic. The merest whiff of rumour about membership last Tuesday, for example, was enough to steady a very nervous market. If the events of recent weeks had taken place within the EMS, however, there would have been no choice for Britain but to raise rates hard and fast as the disastrous trade figures turned a currency problem into a crisis.

The myth that, as a matter of course, we could have expected the Bundesbank to bail us out, is unfortunately just that - a myth. Few can seriously suppose that the German authorities are going to expand their own money supply substantially and jeopardize their own economic policies to rescue a floundering sterling.

Everyone agrees that currency volatility is a bad thing and that everything the authorities can do to smooth

exchange rates is to be welcomed. This, however, is a very different proposition to the pegging of sterling into a fixed exchange rate system at a time of rapid change in the relative performance of economies around the world.

Rather than provide the hoped-for "firm monetary standard" and route to low inflation the gilt market hopes for, EMS membership would instead lead to much more volatile interest rates and a much more pronounced cycle in economic activity.

British Chancellors have had a penchant for over-valued currencies for most of this century and there are few signs of the present Chancellor breaking the trend. On this basis British interest rates are almost certainly going to be higher in the EMS than out of it. The parallel between the current EMS debate and the late 1970s debate about monetary targets is obvious. Targeting EM3 growth was seen as a cure-all policy to deliver both low inflation and low interest rates.

In the end, however, it drove base rates up to record levels. EMS membership, after the initial gloss wore off, could soon turn into the same nightmare in gilts.

George Hodgson

The author is chief economist at Citicorp Scrimgeour, Vickers Securities.

Audit chief on CBI short-list

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Mr John Banham, aged 46, controller of the Audit Commission for local authorities in England and Wales, is on the short-list for the next director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

This was confirmed yesterday by the CBI which said a decision was due shortly about the successor to Sir Terence Beckett, who retires this year.

Until now speculation about successor has centred on Sir Michael Edwards, best known for his turbulent chairmanship years at BL (now the Rover Group) and Sir John Harvey-Jones, who is giving up the chairmanship of ICI early next year.

Sir Alex Jarratt, chairman of the CBI's employment policy committee, has also been mentioned.

Mr Banham was approached by the CBI which was especially impressed by an audio-visual presentation he gave about his commission's work in improving efficiency in local government.

Mr Banham has a contract at the commission until 1988 and in an interview with *Accountancy Age* would not say whether he would accept the CBI position if it was offered.

Before joining the commission Mr Banham worked for Reed International.

(US NOTEBOOK)

Markets target mark as jobless figures rise again

From Maxwell Newton, New York

Employment figures for September confirmed the weakness of the US economy. The rise of 107,000 - about 7 per cent compared with 6.3 per cent in August - reversed the trend of three consecutive months in which unemployment declined and added to the impression that economic growth may be no better than the 0.6 per cent annual rate for the second quarter.

The bond market responded positively to the news.

The market has not yet got it all wanted from the IMF meetings - an agreement between Germany, Japan and the US to hold their relative currency rates fairly stable. Nor did the Germans have the subtlety to give Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, a few feathers to fly with. They left him with nothing.

Nevertheless, it is becoming apparent now that the US has decided - or the Forex markets have decided for it - that the main thrust of dollar devaluation against the main world currencies will be directed against the mark.

The yen is apparently going to be left alone, on the assumption that the Japanese persevere with efforts to stimulate their economy and to raise imports. Meanwhile, the US will act after the Koreans, the Taiwanese, the Canadians and the Brazilians, demanding currency appreciations in return for continued reasonably unfettered access to the US market.

For the bond markets, things are thus beginning to work out nicely. The economy remains in the doldrums - the threat of a major drop in the dollar against the major financial powers has been removed for the time being - the Tax Bill, which is favourable to lower interest rates and comes down heavily on borrowing, has been passed.

A rally in the bond market, which has been postponed since April, may now recommence, driving down in-

terest rates against the background of a steep yield curve. The 90-day T-Bill on Friday was yielding 5.24 per cent, the 10-year note 7.29 per cent and the 30-year bond 7.52 per cent. These are lower yields than have applied since the beginning of September.

The US must achieve a major reduction in imports and can no longer fulfill the role of locomotive for world economic growth. That is quite clear.

But the Reagan Administration is not going to take any drastic moves this side of Christmas to cut off imports. Creeping protectionism will probably now ease, as evidenced by this week's announced move against Japanese textile fibre importers who have been slipping these goods into America under a Japanese label. The feeling in the Administration and the country is one of a total lack of patience with such shenanigans.

Meanwhile, commodity prices continue to show no signs of improvement.

The threatened explosion in commodity prices has not happened. CRB commodities futures have staged about 21 per cent gains in May and March, 1986, and in December, 1985, January, 1986, and February, 1986.

There are two principal reasons for this stability. First, the oil price explosion up to about \$20 a barrel has not happened. Crude futures have remained down around \$14-15.

Secondly, the explosion in precious metals - particularly platinum - has greatly receded. The gold market has held up quite well but there have been no excesses.

Recently the Columbia University Institute for Business cycle research devised an updated index of spot commodity prices.

This index points to considerable stability in the price of spot commodities.

Dilemma of Big Bang 'police'

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The statutory bodies being set up to regulate the City after Big Bang will have difficulty reconciling the control required for investor-protection with the freedom needed by the City to compete on equal terms with international rivals.

Big Bang will create dangers as well as opportunities.

Many of the participants in the new markets will retire hurt or disappear, but the authorities will have to manage this process without letting the contagion spread to the rest of the market.

In the latest *Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin*, Mr Christopher Johnson, the bank's chief economic adviser, says the changes brought about by

There will also be a large number of potential conflicts of interest within single financial institutions as they deal with banking, corporate fi-

nance, investment and securities activities.

The situation will be complicated by the lack of a new legal framework when Big Bang occurs. The Financial Services Bill will not become law before next year.

In the meantime, there is a serious risk that some market participants will take advantage of the lack of any statutory framework protecting investors.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns for Base Rates %, Local Authority Bonds %, EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %, GOLD, and ECGD. Includes various interest rates for different terms and currencies.

APPOINTMENTS

- List of appointments in UK Atomic Energy Authority, Thorn High Street Properties, Carless Solvents, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing Sterling Spot and Forward Rates for various locations like New York, Montreal, Amsterdam, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London Financial Futures for 3-month Sterling, 3-month Eurodollar, etc.

How many major British market-makers can say this?

Smith New Court are the only independent major British market-maker - we are the only one not controlled by any outside group. Our shareholders do not influence our business. Nor do they ever deflect us from offering sound advice and keen prices.



ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 3rd October 1986, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

Balanced way

A chart which appeared last Monday with the article "Balanced way to standard on inflation accounting", inverted the figures for dividends as a percentage of earnings.

Table titled 'BASE LENDING RATES' showing rates for various banks like ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

And finally, the complete picture.



If you've ever puzzled over the name U-BiX, we'd like to put you in the picture.

For years, we've been known as makers of the most reliable copiers in the business, but you probably don't know about our new range of office equipment.

Fax machines, word processors, personal computers, and electronic filing are now as much a part of our business as photocopiers.

That's why we decided it was high time we changed our name.

So from October 1st, we'll be known as Konica Business Machines.

Now you might be wondering what Konica (more famous for their cameras) have to do with U-BiX, and office equipment.

Well, quite simply, both Konica and U-BiX share the same parents. A company called Konishiroku.

After years of working alongside each other, contributing and swapping ideas, it seemed silly not to use the same corporate identity.

After all, both sides have made significant breakthroughs in their similar fields.

Konica for instance, developed and produced the world's first 'through-the-lens' automatic exposure SLR camera. They also produce their own high quality colour film.

And together with our background in consistently excellent copiers, we are about to launch a revolutionary new full colour copier.

Of course this is only one part of our extensive range of office equipment, which includes high quality products right across the board.

Understandably, we're quite proud of our new identity and to celebrate, for a limited period, we're giving away a free camera with every new photocopier or fax machine.

So to complete the picture, just fill in the coupon below and we'll send you the new Konica Business Machines brochure and a free 35mm. Konica colour film.



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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on September 29. Dealings end next Friday. Contango day October 13. Settlement day October 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, P/E. Lists various companies like Reabrock Hides, Greaves, etc.

Please be sure to the account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Shows weekly dividend breakdown.

BRITISH FUNDS

Each unit standing £1. Stock Price Change Int. Dividend Yield % P/E Ratio

Table listing various British funds with their respective prices and changes.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing funds with durations of five to fifteen years.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing funds with durations of over fifteen years.

UNDATED

Table listing undated funds.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked funds.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount and HP funds.

BREWERIES

Table listing brewery companies and their stock prices.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table listing buildings and roads companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table listing chemicals and plastics companies.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table listing cinemas and TV companies.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table listing drapery and stores companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table listing finance and land companies.

FOODS

Table listing food companies.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table listing hotels and caterers companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table listing industrial companies A-D.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Table listing industrial companies E-K.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table listing leisure companies.

MINING

Table listing mining companies.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table listing motors and aircraft companies.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table listing newspapers and publishers.

DIL

Table listing DIL companies.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table listing shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table listing textile companies.

TOBACCOS

Table listing tobacco companies.

Portfolio Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £8,000 Claims required for +52 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table listing overseas traders.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table listing paper, printing, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table listing shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table listing textile companies.

TOBACCOS

Table listing tobacco companies.

© Ex dividend or Ex Div b Forecast dividend or interim dividend unless otherwise stated. Dividend and forecast figures include a special payment if Pro-merge figures are used. Forecast earnings are per share. Ex Div or Ex Div b No significant data.

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HORIZONS

A guide to career choice

Taking risks is an everyday job

Everyone has heard of Lloyd's, even if only as the place where a bell rings when a ship is lost at sea...

What really lies behind those multi-million pound insurance deals at Lloyd's - and how can you make a career in the City's risk business? Beryl Dixon explains



A red-liveried waiter rings the famous Latine Bell at Lloyd's

Lloyd's. They are free to approach insurance companies, and may decide to split a large risk between several Lloyd's syndicates and insurance companies worldwide.

Individual firms have their own recruitment policies. Some prefer to take school-leavers, others graduates. Some are happy with a mixture.

The same firm now prefers graduates where once it relied on the public schools to provide 18-year-old trainees. It feels that the best 15 per cent of pupils automatically go on to university and leave more mature.

The constant interaction between brokers and syndicates requires administrative support and regulation. One or two Lloyd's syndicates have had some bad press recently, though as a spokesman for the Corporation of Lloyd's said resignedly it is the few scandals that hit the headlines, not the remainder of the 400 syndicates.

The corporation is a kind of civil service with 2,000 staff providing various services to the regulatory committee of Lloyd's, 'policing' the rules and disciplines and making sure the mavericks aren't cheating.

School-leavers might join as general trainees and take either accountancy or insurance exams. Graduates might do the same or, if they have specialist backgrounds, be employed in one of the corporation's legislation, finance, audit-

Computer-crime specialist

broking or self-regulatory departments. David Newman is an Oxford geography graduate (until recently the only graduate in his company) with experience of Lloyd's from different angles.

He went into Lloyd's "more or less by accident", being introduced to a broker by his father-in-law, a Lloyd's name.

He soon realized that broking was not for him and went into underwriting, later pioneering a computer-crime insurance policy which received considerable media coverage.

After eight years in underwriting he decided to move and now runs a managing agency. He enjoys it because it is not merely backroom administration but involves him in all aspects of Lloyd's work.

Responsible for the conduct of 15 syndicates, and a premium income of £177 million, he is in charge of the supervision of records, accounts, syndicate fund investments, re-insurance arrangements monitoring, and liaising with members' agencies and with his own direct names.

He sees his role as supporting the entrepreneurial risk-taking underwriters.

Members need to show wealth

connected with Lloyd's. Some work for the syndicates. Names do not do the mechanics of underwriting; a managing agent runs the affairs of one or more syndicates. He or she is an employer, appointing a specialist underwriter for each main class of business - syndicates specialize in particular areas within the two main divisions of marine and non-marine - and a team of underwriting staff.

Each managing agent employs specialists to deal with statistics, taxation, legal matters and trainee underwriters. The latter, possibly school-leavers but increasingly graduates, learn underwriting skills very much by absorption, working with and listening to the underwriters in their team negotiating with brokers. Employers direct their own training and will arrange for entrants to attend formal courses.

Underwriters do not have direct contact with clients but rely on accredited Lloyd's brokers to place business with them. The brokers' responsibility is to their customers; namely to negotiate the best possible terms for a policy, and they are not obliged to place risks with

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

MASSEY UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN JAPANESE

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Japanese within the Department of Modern Languages. Applicants should have a higher degree. Japanese language, civilitation, history and literature courses are offered internally and externally. Applicants should state their particular fields of interest and teaching experience.

AUSTRALIAN STUDIES CENTRE INSTITUTE OF COMMONWEALTH STUDIES

Applications are invited for the post of LECTURER IN AUSTRALIAN STUDIES. The appointment will be made in Australian history or in one of the social sciences. Applicants need not have specialised exclusively in Australian studies but should be able to apply an Australian dimension, preferably in history and literature, to wider comparative studies.

LECTURER IN LAW

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the School of Law, from 1st January 1987, or by arrangement. Starting salary in the range £8,500 to £16,500. Closing date for applications: 24th October 1986.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM LECTURER IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Applications are sought from people with an interest in an area of accounting and finance. Candidates should possess at least a good Honours degree and preference will be given to those with a professional accounting qualification. Applications from candidates with a willingness to develop post-graduate courses and/or an interest in computer-based applications in accounting will be particularly welcome.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON LECTURER IN PHARMACOLOGY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Lecturer in Pharmacology in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. The starting date is negotiable. Salary on scale £8,020 - £15,700 (under review).

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applications are invited for a one-year Research Assistantship in Computer Science funded in the School of Engineering and Applied Science by a Computer Board and U.G.C. initiative to extend the role of computers in the teaching of law. Candidates should preferably have an honours degree in Computer Science with an interest in expert systems but consideration may be given to those with an interest in logic programming and expert systems.

UNIVERSITY OF BATH DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

This new appointment will be tenable from 1st January 1987. The person appointed will have a university-wide role for the development of continuing education, with particular reference to professional and vocational updating and development, and will have a specific responsibility for the formation of a new research group within the School of Education.

JAPAN FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The annual income from a donation made by the Japan Foundation is available for disbursement by the Committee established under the auspices of the UGC for the promotion of Japanese Studies in degree-awarding institutions in the UK.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Laboratory Manager - Optical Fibre Research. The internationally-recognized Optical Fibre Group seeks a Manager to direct the research activities. These have extensive facilities including equipment for fibre fabrication and processing, optical and laser research, electronics and data processing.

Posts

READY FOR A REAL CHANGE. We are recruiting information systems and telecommunications market analysts. Can you write, speak, think, and do you know the IT industry? Look for our advert in the Thursday Times.

Posts

ASHORNE HILL MANAGEMENT COLLEGE. Ashorne Hill Management College is the established U.K. centre for management teaching for the Iron and Steel Industry and now also provides management teaching for other organisations.

THE KING'S SCHOOL, TYNEMOUTH (A School of the Woodard Corporation founded 1860) HEAD. The Northern Chapter of the Woodard Corporation invites applications from well experienced graduates who are practising communicants of the Church of England.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE POLYTECHNIC DIRECTOR. Applications are invited for the post of Director of the North Staffordshire Polytechnic following the retirement of Dr. J. F. Dickenson.

HEAD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL Bath. Applications are invited from graduates who are communicant members of the Church of England for the post of Head with a view to the assumption of the appointment in April 1987.

DAVIES' COLLEGE. Required for January 1987, or as soon as possible. A VICE-PRINCIPAL (Administration). STARTING SALARY £16,500.

Posts

WAKEFIELD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL APPOINTMENT OF HEAD. Applications are invited for the appointment of Head commencing 1st September 1987. The post becomes vacant upon the retirement of Miss Y J Hand.

KING'S SCHOOL, BRUTON DEPUTY HEAD. Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Head at King's School, Bruton for September 1st, 1987. The School is an H.M.C. boys' boarding school with Sixth Form girls.

Prep & Public Schools. WYMONDHAM COLLEGE. Co-educational all-ability boarding school. Superior academic record. 800 pupils ages 11 - 18.

Courses. National Extension College. 90 home study courses: 'O', 'A', professional etc. Ask for free 'Guide to Courses'.

Courses. CHIROPODY AS A PROFESSION. The demand for the trained man or woman chiropodist in the private sector is increasing. Most of the training necessary to qualify for a diploma in chiropody may be taken at home by very special correspondence lessons followed by full practical training.

New from Pitman. New 10-week intensive course from October on business and technology skills. No theoretical training includes Typesetting, Principles of Accounts, Management and 'hands-on' experience in word processing, computer skills.

KING'S HOUSE SCHOOL. A temporary teacher full time required from 31st of November to teach mainly Maths to 5-10 year olds.

Courses. ART & DESIGN. Foundation, introductory and Post Foundation (18 months) Courses. Places available for 1987 start.

Courses. The Blackheath School of Art. 01-882 3960.

Continued on next page.

EDUCATIONAL

Posts

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SENIOR LECTURER IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The post is located in a Department centre on Office Systems and Information Technology. Candidates should have an Honours degree or equivalent and relevant teaching and/or business experience. Relevant areas include all aspects of business and office systems development and applications, including its organisational implications.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & NURSING STUDIES

Senior Lecturer

We are looking for a graduate (or someone completing a degree) with relevant qualifications and experience to be the Course Organiser for the Diploma in Health Visiting courses. The Department of Health and Nursing Studies is a dynamic Department and offers basic degree and post-basic nursing courses.

Depending on qualifications the successful candidate would be expected to contribute to other programmes in the Department. It would be desirable but not essential to have a RIMV/RIMM qualification.

Application forms from the Personnel Officer, Glasgow College of Technology, Glasgow G4 6GA (Tel: 041 331 2843)

to be returned within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

GLASGOW COLLEGE of TECHNOLOGY

A Scottish Central Institution

ST FELIX SCHOOL, SOUTHWOLD HEAD

The Governors invite applications for this post which will become vacant on the retirement of Mrs Anne Mustoe. The successful applicant will take up the appointment in April or September 1987.

St Felix is an independent Boarding and Day School. There are 360 girls in the Senior School of whom 315 are boarders and over 100 are in the Sixth Form. The Preparatory School, St George's, is adjacent.

The School is non-denominational. It has a strong academic tradition and great importance is attached to career development and extra-curricular activities.

A car and an attractive house are provided.

Please apply for further details to the Chairman of the Governors, 36 Morpeth Mansions, Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1ET. Tel: 01-828 9691.

The closing date for applications will be 3 November.

Scholarships

Westminster School Sixth Form Scholarships 1987

Scholarships are offered to boys and girls wishing to enter the sixth form at Westminster in September 1987. Awards will be made on the basis of academic potential, all round ability and financial need.

Both day and boarding pupils are eligible. The value of scholarships is usually not less than half fee, and may be increased in some cases.

Written tests will be held at Westminster on 24th January 1987, and final interviews on 7th February. An Open Day is also held for candidates and their parents to visit the school.

Special consideration will be given to candidates for whom there is no provision in their present school to study their preferred A level subjects.

The closing date is 30 November 1986. Full details may be obtained from The Registrar, Westminster School, Little Dean's Yard, London SW1P. Tel: 01-222 5616

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A. THOURON AWARDS

Under the Foundation of Sir John and the late Lady Thouron, applications are invited, before 7th November 1986, from unmarried candidates for SIX AWARDS of the value of approximately \$9,900 each plus tuition fees and tentable for one year from 1st September 1987, at the postgraduate level in any recognised department of study in the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Prospective applicants should send a stamped (17p) and addressed 10" x 7" envelope to the Registrar (Thouron Awards), University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QL.

Fellowships

THE ROYAL SOCIETY British Gas Senior Research Fellowship

Applications are invited by the Council of the Royal Society for the Royal Society-British Gas Senior Research Fellowship for independent and original scientific or technological research in a field of direct interest to British Gas. The successful candidate will be expected to liaise closely with British Gas and it is expected that applicants will establish a dialogue with appropriate British Gas research station(s) before submitting their applications.

Candidates must be British citizens or citizens of a Commonwealth country and must hold the fellowship in a university or polytechnic department in the United Kingdom. Applicants should preferably be under 40 on 1 January 1987.

The appointment will be tenable for five years from 1 January 1987 (or another date to be arranged) and may exceptionally be renewable for a further two years, such renewal being considered at the end of the fourth year of tenure. The stipend scale will be £15,995 a year to £18,159 per annum (scales as at 1 April 1985), and the point of entry will be determined by Council. Superannuation benefits will be provided and, where appropriate, London Allowance. Some provision for research expenses will be available.

Applications should be made on forms to be obtained, with further details of the award and of some current research areas of interest to British Gas, from the Executive Secretary (UMAM), The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG, and should be received not later than 14 November 1986.

Fellowships

St. Catharine's College Cambridge Research Fellowships

The Governing Body of St. Catharine's College invites applications from students of the Faculty of Divinity for three Research Fellowships, tenable until November 30, 1987. The Fellowships will be open to students in the Faculty of Divinity in October 1987. The Fellowships will be open to students in the Faculty of Divinity in October 1987. The Fellowships will be open to students in the Faculty of Divinity in October 1987.

JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD TUTORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN PHILOSOPHY

The College proposes to elect an Official Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, with effect from 1st October, 1987. The post is open to men and women, and it is hoped that a part-time University Lectureship will be associated with the post.

JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The College invites applications from men and women for two Junior Research Fellowships open to candidates intending to pursue research in Law or in Mathematics. The Fellowships will be tenable for two to three years from 1st October, 1987.

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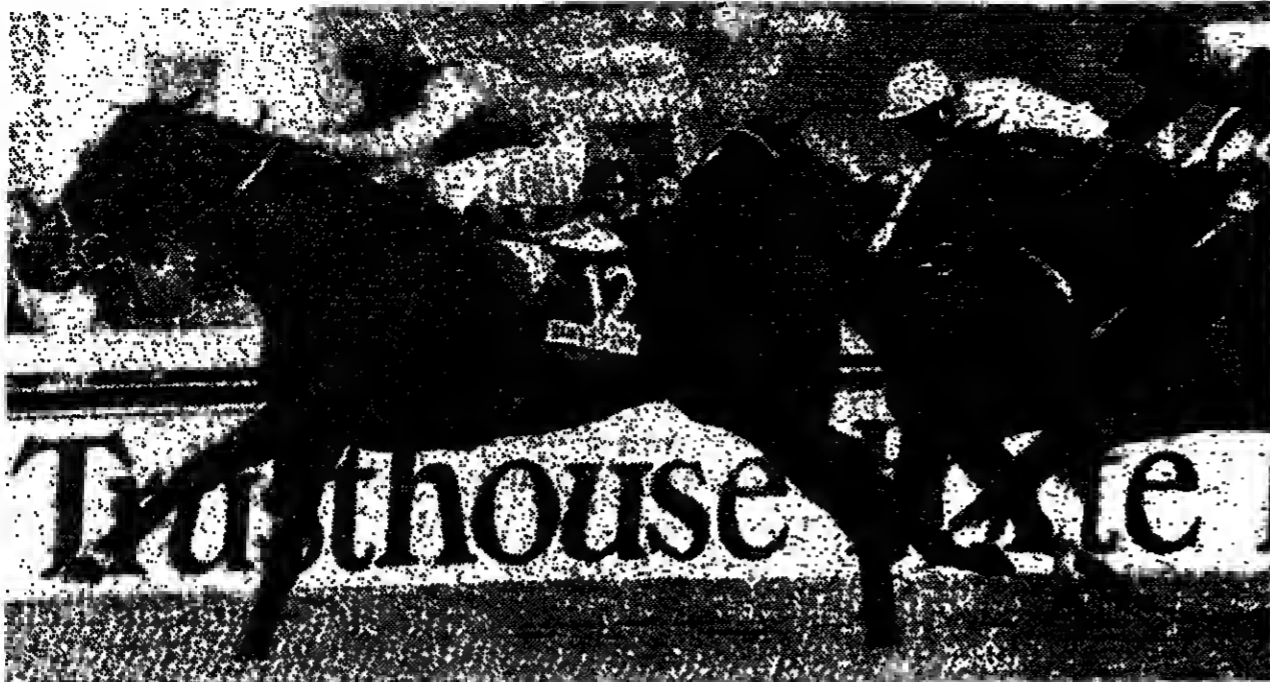
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RACING: CUMANI'S STABLE JOCKEY LANDS TWO BIG RACES AT NEWMARKET DESPITE PAINFUL FOOT INJURY

Brave Cochrane collects 373-1 double

Ray Cochrane, who almost broke his foot in a freak racing accident on Tuesday at Goodwood...



Dancing Brave storms clear of Bering (right) and Triptych in yesterday's memorable Arc victory at Longchamp

Cochrane, still limping following his accident, said after his triumph on Dallas: "I had my leg packed in ice last night and in cold water this morning..."

Luca CUMANI's newly-appointed stable jockey jockeyed Dallas with a smooth challenge to cut down strongly-fancied Power Bender inside the final furlong...

Mathau, the film actor, who backed the winner. Tremblant, the 6-1 favourite, could only finish fourth...

The winning trainer, who was landing his second Cambridgehire following the triumph of Century City in 1982, said: "Dallas deserved to win a big race..."

Williams with his first group race success in Britain. His colt's win may have stunned the form students...

Williams has Mister Majestic entered in the Dewhurst Stakes and the colt is a likely runner, provided the ground does not get any firmer.

lot of our youngsters are backward. Maxine Juster, aged 28, clinched the first ladies' championship of her career...

The American-bred Subaltie earned a 33-1 quote for next year's 2,000 Guineas and also became a 50-1 chance for the Derby with bookmakers William Hill...

Pat Eddery quickly got off the mark when a Prayer For Wings landed a gamble from 5-1 to 3-1 in the Carlsberg Trophy Nursery...

The strongly-fancied colts Most Welcome and Mansooj were totally eclipsed in the £32,500 Tattersalls Middle Park Stakes as Mister Majestic gamely repel the challenge of Risk Me (10-1) to win by a neck...

BATH

Selections

- 2.00 Millers Tale. 2.00 Polynor. 2.30 Tot Foot. 3.00 Farm Club. 3.30 Make It Sharp. 4.00 Abbaaj. 4.30 El Conquistador.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

- 2.00 Polynor. 2.30 Tot Foot. 3.00 Farm Club. 3.30 Make It Sharp. 4.00 Abbaaj. 4.30

Guide to our new in-line racecard

103 (12) 6-0822 TRANSFORM (CO) Mrs J Pylye at 10-10-0 West (4) 88 7-2

Racecard notes. Draw in brackets. Six-figure weight, rider, owner in brackets. Trainer, age and sex of horse, name of stable, jockey, weight, race, place any allowance. The Times Course where, D-distance, weather, CD-course, P-private handicapper's ruling, Approximate starting and distance notes. BF-baited favourite in price.

EDINBURGH

Selections

- 2.15 Malibu Toast. 2.45 Tolly's Ale. 3.15 Gay Appeal. 3.45 Quiet Hero. 4.15 Naughty Nightie. 3.45 Quiet Hero. 4.15 Irish Hero. 4.45 Muddi. Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Malibu Toast.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

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WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections

- 2.00 Another Guest. 2.30 Peltus Seventy. 3.00 Sneak Preview (nap). 3.30 No Stopping. 4.00 Balkan Leader. 4.30 Bickerman. Michael Seely's selection: 4.30 Bickerman.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

- 2.00 Peltus Seventy. 2.30 Peltus Seventy. 3.00 Sneak Preview (nap). 3.30 No Stopping. 4.00 Balkan Leader. 4.30 Bickerman.

PERTON CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O C & G; £7,748: 1m 4f) (10 runners)

Table with 4 columns: No, Name, Trainer, Jockey. Includes entries like 1-4000 BULLY (S) and 1-4001 BULLY (S).

4.0 E B F DUDLEY MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: 2-Y-O: £717: 5f) (8 runners)

Table with 4 columns: No, Name, Trainer, Jockey. Includes entries like 1-4000 ANAROH (K) and 1-4001 ANAROH (K).

3.30 OAKEN LODGE HANDICAP (3-Y-O C: £2,354: 1m 1f) (16 runners)

Table with 4 columns: No, Name, Trainer, Jockey. Includes entries like 1-0100 BERRY'S (L) and 1-0101 BERRY'S (L).

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table with 3 columns: Trainers, Runners, Per Cent. Lists names like J Trace, I Bading, R Smyth.

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Sprinting honours for Double Schwartz

From Our French Correspondent, Paris. Double Schwartz gave Pat Eddery the best possible prelude to his great Arc victory on Dancing Brave when landing the £24,499 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp...

Sneak Preview to strengthen claim for Cesarewitch

Sneak Preview, one of the few shining lights in a disappointing season for Henry Candy, can underline his chance in the Tot Cesarewitch in 12 days' time by defying top weight in the West Midland Handicap at Wolverhampton today.

Headed by Peter Doolan, Eddery always had Charlie Nelson's game five-year-old up on his back. Although he had to be hard ridden he was always going to hold his pursuers and ran on stoutly to score by a neck and a head.

The six-year-old has not run for three months but that is unlikely to prove a disadvantage as he showed at the Newmarket Guineas meeting in May that he is capable of producing his best after a long lay-off.

There was considerable criticism over the fact that the course-cumulating system had not been used at the middle of the week. However, Dermot Weld had no reason to be displeased as he completed yet another Phoenix Park double with City Cockey. Find The Cause and Cockey Lass.

Hindley lands Italian Leger

Cosme l'Estale, ridden by Michael Hills, defeated the odds-on Rosedale (Tony Murray) in the £26,630 Stayer Italiano (1m 6f) at Milan on Saturday.

Sea Dara foils Weld

Dermot Weld's attempt to win the group three Park Stakes which is named after his father, Charles Weld, was foiled at the Phoenix Park on Saturday when Phoenix Nisi was beaten by Sea Dara.

Blinkered first time

EDINBURGH: 2.45 Tolly's Ale, 4.15 Fairy Robin, 4.45 Fountain's Choice. BATHS: 2.30 Roche's, 3.00 Muddi, 3.30 Make Peace, 4.00 Lady's Man.

Football: Day of self-interest

Self-interest is the day in the fight for C...

Self-interest is the day in the fight for C...

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FOOTBALL: DAY OF JUDGEMENT ARRIVES IN THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST HOOLIGANISM ON THE TERRACES

Self-interests set to win the day in Luton's fight for Cup justice

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football League chairmen are to assemble at Villa Park today to offer their judgement on Luton Town. No one should be surprised if the jury of 91 men confirm the sentence that has already been passed by their own management committee, who knocked the club out of the Littlewoods Cup on a technicality.

It has been argued that it restricts the freedom of committed followers. Yet the drunken brawls through their odious behaviour have already inflicted far more extensive damage on the enthusiasm of the occasional spectator. To retrieve them, sacrifices must be made. Luton, anyway, plan probably next year to accommodate visiting season-ticket holders.



Ground control: Rush counters Wimbledon's high level tactics (Photograph: Chris Smith)

Pleat must make bids for quality

Tottenham Hotspur 0 Luton Town 0

By Clive White

David Pleat must have felt the times regret on Saturday watching his former Luton Town, and present one, Tottenham Hotspur, compete for his affections. Even with their teeth missing there could be no doubt that Luton were the better looking and more beguiling of the two.

But the separation was too acrimonious for there to be any turning back now. Pleat knows that just as he reshaped the features of Luton over eight years, so he must do with his new partners only more quickly and more beautifully.

Chairman refutes 'invasion'

By Nicholas Harding

What constitutes a pitch invasion? The 8,150 crowd at Crystal Palace might well have wondered, as about 300 fans ran on to Selhurst Park, interrupting the game, on Saturday.

Blissett stakes a claim

By David Powell

West Ham a two-goal lead but straying into a central position, he struck a perfect pass out wide for what can only be described as a typical Callaghan goal.

United at their best in adversity

By Vince Wright

Nottingham Forest 1 Manchester United 1. Manchester United's unexpected but well-earned draw against the League leaders will have gone a long way towards restoring confidence among the players and lifting the morale of Ron Atkinson, the club's harassed manager.

Feel of springtime in air of Norfolk

By Simon Jones

There is a tremor spreading across the agricultural land of Norfolk associated with the first days of spring. The reason for this subtle excitement is simple: the club of Norwich has a football club in danger of becoming successful.

Sweden in the final thanks to Pernfors

From Richard Evans, Prague

An injury suffered during practice at dawn prevented Ken Carlsson from playing the first reverse singles for Sweden against Czechoslovakia in the NEC Davis Cup semi-final here at the Stivanice Stadium.

English pair lift Barcelona

Madrid (Reuter) - Gary Lineker and Mark Hughes helped Barcelona go to the top of the Spanish first division on Saturday with a 3-0 home victory against Real Valladolid.

Britain are on top of the world

By Nicolas Soames

Britain's veteran karate squad proved that age and experience can comfortably contain the impetuosity of youth as they shrugged off the challenges of young teams from Japan and Korea to secure their third consecutive world team title at the World Karate Championships in Sydney, Australia on Saturday.

Wimbledon's high level tactics

By Stuart Jones

Wimbledon's teaching guide, a bug notepad the size of a blackboard, was still in place, resting on an easel in a corner of the room. One page was filled with the potential weaknesses of each Liverpool player. The lesson ended with a 'line of Dave Bassett's characteristic humour. "Other than that, they are out a bad side," he had written.

Back to the drawing board

By Stuart Jones

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WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Table containing football results and league tables for various divisions including First, Second, Third, Fourth, Scottish Premier, Scottish First, Scottish Second, Gloucestershire Senior Trophy, and Northern Counties East League.

POOLS CHECK

Table containing pool check results for various leagues and tournaments.

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POOLS CHECK

Table containing pool check results for various leagues and tournaments.

HOCKEY: ARGENTINA GIVE ASTONISHING DISPLAY

England off to good start with win over New Zealand

By Sydney Friskin

SPORTS COMMENTARY

David Miller... It is somewhat ironic that England, in their hockey centenary year...

David Whitaker, England's coach, had good reason to be pleased with the decisive victory over New Zealand...

England started the second half with the lively attacking spell. Sherwin combining well with Kerly on the left...



Off the mark: Neal Foulds at Stoke yesterday, where he won his first major snooker tournament, the BCE International

RUGBY UNION

Green strives to add momentum to English game

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England are confident that Jamie Salmon and Simon Halliday, the centres picked to play against Japan on Saturday...

Weekend results

Table of sports results including football, rugby, and other events. Columns include match details, scores, and winners.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The Saints go marching on

By Keith Macklin

While St Helens marched on at the top of the table with their unbeaten league record intact, Wigan and Castleford lost their freedom from defeat...

Decisive Maradona style win for Verga for Australia

By Sydney Friskin

In a brief spell of ascendency New Zealand lost a great chance of snatching the lead. Archibald, playing along the line on the right...

Canada found the net from a short corner when Choihan but his shot was ruled too high. Porritt sliced a shot wide before Australia took control again...

Winners sorely tested

By John Hennessy

Patricia Johnson and Neil Rodrick, last year's runners-up, went one better in the Worplesdon Scratch Foursomes yesterday...

French take multihull race honours

Fraoce took the Silk Cut Challenge Cup from the British yesterday by just a quarter of a point in the multihull race...

Philosophical long-term view

The ideologies of Bren's council chamber are of no concern this next fortnight to Sean Kerly and the eight other team members...

FOR THE RECORD

ASIAN GAMES: Seoul Final Medal Table. SOCCER: World Cup 1986. RUGBY LEAGUE: Premiership. FOOTBALL: Football League. TENNIS: Wimbledon. GOLF: PGA Championship. BASEBALL: Major League. HOCKEY: World Cup. CRICKET: Test matches.

Dublin bows to Kelly

From John Wilcockson, Dublin

A more perfect script could not have been written for the second Nissan Classic, which can claim to be Ireland's biggest sporting event...

Taylor family delight

By Jenny MacArthur

There was delight all round yesterday when Anne-Marie Taylor and Bobbie Miller won the Chatsworth Audi Horse Trials after four days of superb competition...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's sports fixtures including football, rugby, tennis, and other events. Lists teams, times, and venues.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Table of entertainment listings including art galleries, cinemas, and other cultural events. Lists names, times, and locations.

A large vertical advertisement on the far right side of the page, partially cut off. It features various text and graphics, including the letters 'BCC' at the top.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax AM. Breakfast Time with Guy Michell...

TV-AM

- 6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne...

ITV/LONDON

- 8.25 Thames news headlines. For Schools: music by children...



Eleanor David and Colin Blakely on ITV, at 9.00pm

It has been far too long since I last wrote about BBC...

CHOICE

Three documentaries, already seen on BBC Television...

producer is man enough to admit as much. The Stoner...

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

- 8.00 Cee-fax. Daytime on Two: how to start your own business...

CHANNEL 4

- 1.50 The Puppet Men. The final episode of the dramatized documentary series...

Radio 4

- On long wave. (a) Stereo on VHF. 5.25 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing...

Radio 3

- 1.00 The World At One: News 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News: Woman's Hour...

Radio 2

- MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (85.5). News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

Radio 1

- MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (97.3). News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 8.30pm...

19) Mendelssohn (New Ladies: On Ladies: Mendelssohn: Bal de Reue)...

6.00 Newsweek 7.00 News 7.30 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 Sarah and Company 8.00...

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsweek 7.00 News 7.30 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 Sarah and Company 8.00...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS: BANQUET HALL 6.08 5796/6338. DAVE ALLEN LIVE. THE MAINTENANCE MAN. OPERA & BALLET: COLLEGE & 8.30 2101.

FOOTLIGHTS IN ANOTHER FORM. THE MAINTENANCE MAN. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. THE BUSINESS OF MURDER. THE HIT MUSICAL.

THE BUSINESS OF MURDER. STEVEN BERKOFF'S. METAMORPHOSIS. NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY. CATS.

THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANIES. CHARLIE GIRL. CHARLIE GIRL. CHARLIE GIRL. CHARLIE GIRL.

ART GALLERIES: BARBARIC ART GALLERY. THE PETITION. THE PETITION. THE PETITION.

SPORT

Partisanship for Lyle forces a Norman boycott

Greg Norman administered a worrying body blow to the sponsors by insisting that he will not defend his title after overcoming Sandy Lyle 2 and 1 in the final of the Sunbury world match-play championship at Wentworth yesterday.

By Mitchell Platts

assessing the problem if, in fact, there is one. It is extremely difficult to pinpoint troublemakers among the huge crowds of spectators.

Norman's unprovoked outburst could be seen as an attempt by the player to suffocate the problem before it extends to other fairways.

He said: "The sport must return to where it should be: with every spectator appreciating the game and giving both players in a match a fair deal. I could swallow the pill, but I feel better for saying something."

Norman's anger could be seen clearly on a number of occasions as he glared at sections of the crowd. He had no reason to feel aggrieved with his own game whereas Lyle was under the severest of pressure throughout as he unsuccessfully struggled to string his act together.

Norman pointed out that in the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews last week there was a minor disturbance on the second hole, but that Sam Torrance, then his opponent, told the crowd to "back off". Norman said: "That was the

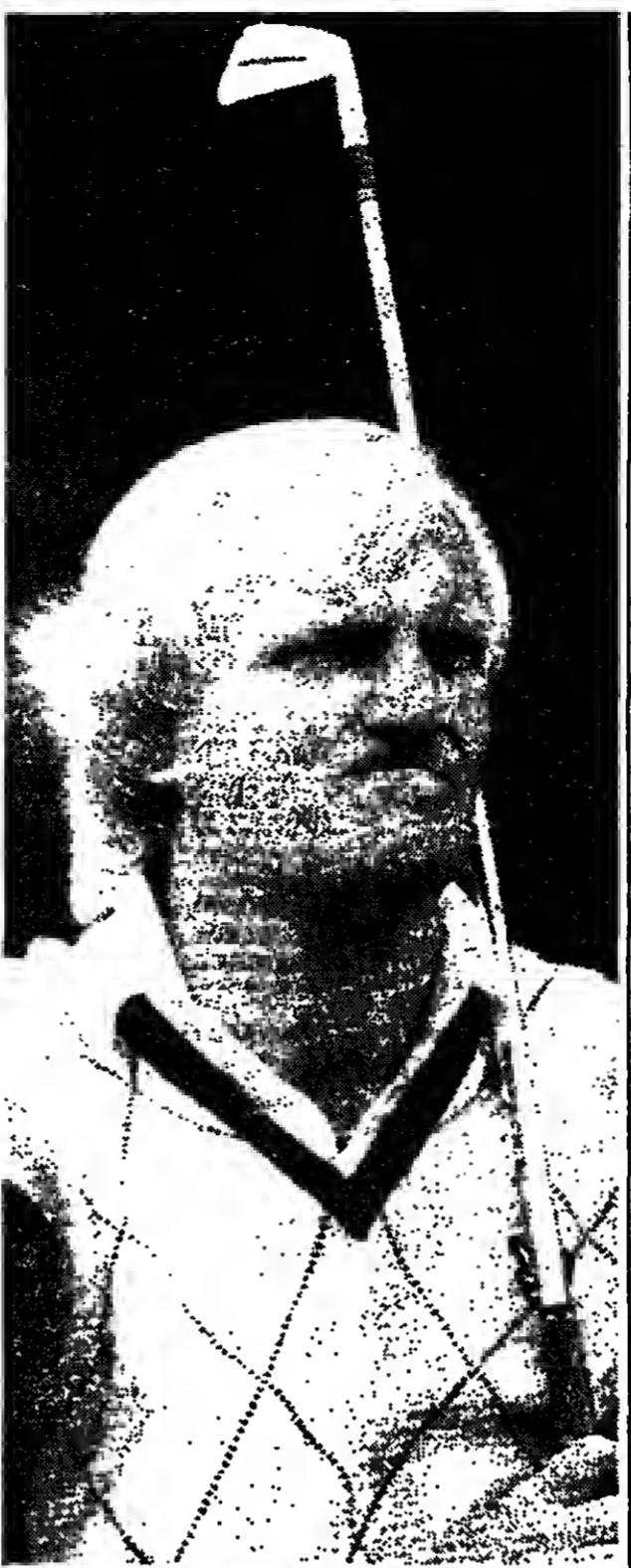
right thing to do. Sandy never said a word today." The problem for Lyle was that he had more than enough on his own mind as his indifferent early play enabled Norman, the No 1 player in the world, to build a substantial lead of six holes after playing through the 14th. Lyle said: "I think what occurred out there was bound to happen. I'm the local boy. I was behind all the way and the crowd was trying to lift me back into the match. Anyway, I thought they were pretty reasonable."

Lyle won three holes in succession from the 15th in the morning to reduce his deficit to three, but he suffered two crucial setbacks on either side of the lunch interval. He missed a putt of 4ft for a win at the 18th and, at the first after the break, Norman clipped in from out of a bunker to move four up again.

Lyle and Norman exchanged a succession of holes after that and the Australian was still three up with four holes to play. Lyle, to his credit, holed from 5ft to win the 15th and then from 12ft to take the next. However, he pulled his drive at the long 17th out of bounds and was compelled to concede both the hole and the match.

Card of course

Table with columns: Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par. Rows show scores for West course, Wentworth and East course, Wentworth.



Wentworth woes: Norman grimly ignores rowdy spectators to win the match-play final 2 and 1. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Dancing Brave proves himself true champion

From Michael Seely, Paris

Dancing Brave proved himself to be the best middle-distance performer since Mill Reef when sweeping to a devastating victory over Bering and Triptych in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp yesterday.

"When I asked him to quicken, he just sprinted past them," said Pat Eddery after he had joined Lester Piggott and Charlie Elliott as the only three overseas jockeys to have won three Arcs.

Eddery said: "It was electrifying. And judged by the Big race result"

Going: 1m 42.5. TRUENHOUSE FORTÉ PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE (Group 1, 2007.555.1m 42.5). DANCING BRAVE b.c by Lupton - 20.0. PRIXES: 1st 2007.555.1m 42.5. Pat Eddery.

way Dancing Brave went past them in the straight, he must be the best horse I have ever ridden. He's a Rolls-Royce." Such compliments coming from the rider of such outstanding race horses as Grundy, Golden Fleece, El Gran Senor and Pebbles are well deserved.

Criquette Head, the trainer of Bering, acknowledged this when she said: "It was no disgrace to be beaten by such a fantastic horse. I have no complaint."

Dancing Brave's time of 2min 27.75sec was a new record for the race, 0.3sec faster than that established by Detroit in 1980.

The moment of truth came two furlongs from home as Greville Starkey sent Shardari into the lead. When Shahrastani and Darara also launched their attack, but no sooner had Shahrastani, the winner of the English and Irish Derby, snatched a brief advantage than Gary Moore pounced on Bering.

The French Derby winner's burst of speed proved unavailing as Eddery and Dancing Brave stormed home to win by one and a half lengths.

The time for vision at Luton

COMMENT



By Richard Tracey Minister for Sport

Today the Football League chairman meet at Villa Park to decide whether Luton Town should be allowed to take part in the Littlewood's cup competition, in view of the club's introduction of a 'members only' scheme at home matches.

The League Management Committee have said they must stick by this rule, arguing that home advantage is of particular value in 'sudden death' cup matches.

At my meeting, both sides got talking last week, to try to find a solution: in the end, the management committee decided to put the issue to a meeting of all the clubs today.

The Government is interested because we believe that controlling and solving hooliganism must be the major priority for football. Our concern is of course to protect the public; we have been working in partnership with the football authorities, with commitment and some success, to make football grounds safe and secure so that the young, the community, the innocent majority could once again go back to watching matches in peace.

Violence the major task In my travels over the last week or so I have so far met nobody who did not share my view that dealing with violence was the major task for football - and who did not feel therefore that Luton's experiment should be supported.

Last weekend I was invited to BBC TV's 'Saturday Superstore' for a discussion and phone-in on one of the busiest phone calls that programme has conducted, 68 per cent of the viewing youngsters supported Luton and said they should not be banned from the cup. That also appears to be the overwhelming opinion of football and other commentators.

Last season arrests and ejections from grounds were down by nearly 50 per cent. But the problem is far from solved. This season we have had nasty incidents at Bradford, Exeter, Bournemouth and on the North Sea, reminding us of the need for continuing vigilance and effort.

Luton's answer to a tough one. It does not appeal to all clubs; I can understand that Luton may be infringing some concepts of freedom; I acknowledge that their solution would not readily work at some big clubs, in, for example, London or Manchester.

But the point is that for this club, beating the drug and securing safety is the overriding priority. I think there's an interesting, carefully planned experiment which could be valuable for other clubs and therefore it is important that it runs its course.

Club chairmen know that their game is at the crossroads. Today's decision is one of those which occurs from time to time in any business or human activity, where an issue transcends normal management or operational rules. In this issue, the public are looking for a clear sign from the League that they have their priorities right and that they share our determination to take all possible steps to provide that safety and security without which any sport or indeed any activity requiring public support, cannot continue.

In an interview about Luton last week, Frank Bough said: 'I understand all about the League's rules - but where's the vision?' It is vision and social responsibility we look for today. I believe our partnership with the League and the FA is a fruitful one. I hope it is that sense of partnership, that perception of priority, that vision of a game enthused over by all the community, that prevails today.

Chairmen meet, page 31.

Mishaps give Britons an early fright

From Barry Pickthall Fremantle

In one of the closest matches of the day, Harold Cadmore and his crew sailing Britain's 12-metre White Crusader, chalked up their first win on the opening day of the America's Cup trials off Fremantle yesterday, beating Tom Blackaller's radical twin-riggered boat USA, by only 11 seconds.

It was a close shave with the lead changing six times during the 24.5-mile Olympic course, leaving the British to ponder about their lack of speed downwind and serious shortcomings in their maintenance programme which allowed a mast halyard to break and the rudder to seize momentarily, which led to the failure of one ratchet and sailing instruments.

"We got the feeling we had the gremlins aboard today," Cadmore said ruefully. With Chris Law at the helm, the British boat made the most of a good start despite being forced to gybe around suddenly during the pre-start preliminaries when their new rudder suddenly went stiff.

After forcing Blackaller to tack away during the closing seconds, they hit the port end of the line at full speed and had gained a five-foot length advantage by the time USA had cleared the line five seconds later and built up momentum. Half-way up this first windward leg however, Crusader's masthead halyard lock failed and her mainsail came sliding down to give the American's, who were by this time in a seemingly hopeless situation some 10 lengths adrift, a heaven sent chance to redeem themselves.

The British lost four minutes recovering their compass, sure and rounded the weather mark 13 seconds behind the USA crew, who maintained their advantage on the following spinnaker run down to the leeward mark. Thankfully, the Howlett designed Crusader came back into her own on the following beat with another powerful performance upwind, to turn the deficit into a 30-second advantage by the mark.

But any satisfaction they gained proved short-lived for the Gary Mall American design picked up her skirts on the next reach to round the wind mark with a six-second advantage, increasing this to 10 at the leeward mark.

By now the shifting 18-knot westerly breeze had dropped to 14 or less but Crusader, maintaining her windward speed advantage, overtook and pulled out a 42-second lead on the subsequent third leg to windward only to stumble again on the following run.

Thankfully for the British, Blackaller broke the cardinal rule of tacking before his crew were ready after rounding this final mark and in the ensuing tangle, Crusader slipped ahead and then matched the American crew tack for tack, despite the failure of a runner winch, in a closely-fought duel to the finish, finally crossing the line with a boat length to spare.

In the five other heats yesterday, Dennis Cosner's Stars and Stripes 87 scored a convincing 5min 49sec win over Italia, a time beaten only by the 6min 25sec drabbing meted out to Buddy Melges's Chicago challenger, Heart of America, by Chris Dickson, aged 24, and his crew on New Zealand IV.

French Kiss, skippered by Marc Pajot, also gained the measure of the second Italian entry, Azzurra IV, at an early stage in their race to go on and win by more than three minutes. The quietly-fancied Canada II might also have joined the winning ranks with a sensational victory over the New York Yacht Club's America II, but their mainsail snapped on a strand of rigging resulting in a 10ft rip across the Kevlar leech half-way through their match when the Canadian boat held a one-minute advantage. This allowed the Americans to slip ahead and win.

RESULTS: Heat 1: Eagle USA60 (Newport Harbor YC), 2nd 20min 15sec. In Clubhouse race, 19 of USA: French Kiss v Eagle, Canada II v White Crusader; Stars and Stripes v Azzurra; Heart of America v Challenger; France.

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Robson is ready to call up Webb

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Neil Webb, Nottingham Forest's exciting young midfielder, is expected to be promoted to the senior England squad today. He is likely to be one of the 22 players that Bobby Robson will announce for the opening European championship tie against Northern Ireland at Wembley on Wednesday week.

Webb, a former youth and under-21 international, started his career at Reading and rose to prominence at Portsmouth. This season, with Brian Clough's youthful side that currently leads the first division, he has been the outstanding figure, and also their leading scorer with 10 goals.

Robson has bemoaned the shortage of Englishmen who can fill the role on the left side of a midfield. Webb has emerged as the most promising challenger to Hodge, of Aston Villa, who played there during the World Cup finals but was one of many disappointing individuals in the recent defeat in Sweden.

The other weakness in Robson's design is at centre-half, more so now than ever before. Because of injuries, England's manager is left with only Butcher and Watson as recognised representatives and he will probably recall Mabbutt. Tottenham Hotspur's versatile defender, and perhaps the uncapped Mounifield, who recently returned to Everton's rearguard.

More football, page 31

Aberdeen losing touch

By Hugh Taylor

Two goals scored by Ian Ferguson gave Dundee United victory over Falkirk to keep them in the lead of the Premier Division. The forward, transferred to United from Rangers for a fee of £145,000, has now scored 11 goals in his nine games for his new club.

United remain a point ahead of Celtic, who are in second place, but who had to work hard to earn both points at Paisley. In the end, they beat St Mirren 2-0.

RUGBY UNION

South Africa set to escape punishment for rebel tour

By Paul Martin

South Africa is to escape without any punishment for the role it played in organizing the rebel New Zealand rugby tour there earlier this year. The Times has discovered. And it has also emerged that the key figure behind the tour, Louis Luyt, Transvaal's chairman, met representatives from all four home unions in secret discussions over the last fortnight.

The South Africans spurned an official "request" by the International Rugby Board in April that the tour be brought to a "speedy end". But two confidential reports to be submitted to the Board's special meeting later this week will concede that the IRB has no power to expel, suspend or discipline the South Africans - and will rule out retroactive measures.

"It goes against the grain, but there it is," Bill Connon, Scotland's representative, said. "Though we see South Africa as the initiator of the tour, rather than New Zealand, South Africa is not in the dock."

The emergency committee is to urge that South Africa give assurances that it will not again be involved in unauthorized tours. But no such assurance was given by Mr Luyt at meetings with Mr Connon, John Kendall Carpenter, England's representative, Keith Rowlands of Wales, the policy committee chairman, and Harry McKibben, of Ireland, chairman of the emergency committee.

SNOOKER

Foulds takes his first title against the odds

By a Special Correspondent

Neal Foulds, aged 23, captured his first major professional title with a 12-9 victory over the Canadian Cliff Thorburn in the BCE £175,000 international final at Stoke yesterday to confirm his status as snooker's brightest young hope.

Foulds produced a performance of raw courage and determination against a player recognized as the toughest opponent in the game. Typically, Thorburn refused to surrender his title easily and although he was playing below the standard that has made him the most consistent performer in the sport, some blame must be attached to his cue tip which he had to change after the third frame of the day as he trailed 9-8.

Foulds won the first two frames of the day, aided by a superb 6-0 clearance to pink to lead 9-7 and although Thorburn pulled back to 9-8 Foulds spurred ahead once more to 11-8.

Thorburn made breaks of 37 and 56 to clinch the 20th frame and it looked as if he could pull off another of his famous recovery acts. But at 49-51 down in the final frame he missed a crucial yellow to give Foulds table space, and although he missed the green so too did Thorburn and that left the youngster in for a second chance which he gratefully took to earn a £35,000 winner's cheque.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Boy's Own debut

Wilfred Timms, who died last week two days after his 84th birthday, made an entry into first-class cricket for Northampton in 1921 which was straight out of schoolboy fiction (David Miller writes). Essex had made 604 for 7 and Northants, with 223, followed on. Timms, aged 18 and still at school, made 134 not out in six hours out of 445 for 5 to save the match, and was carried shoulder-high from the field by schoolboy colleagues.

In 1926 against Warwickshire, he made 128 in a seventh-wicket partnership of 229 with Sammy Walden which still stands, and in the next match, 112 against Leicestershire. Timms, who missed a blue at Cambridge.

Johnathon Jones, of Wales, is the new world Formula 11 powerboat champion. He and his co-driver Buck Thornton, of the United States, won the Paris six-hour race yesterday to secure the title with one championship race still to be run. In Singapore next month, He and Thornton finished a remarkable 15 laps ahead of the British couple. Tony Williams and Robin Stoddart. RESULTS: 1. J. Jones (GB) and B. Thornton (USA), distance covered 885km, at speed 137kph. 2. A. Williams and R. Stoddart (GB) 728.128. 3. M. Barthelemy (FR) and G. Buati (USA) 723.121.

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